THE TIMES

SATURDAY

May 13 2023 | thetimes.co.uk | No 74095

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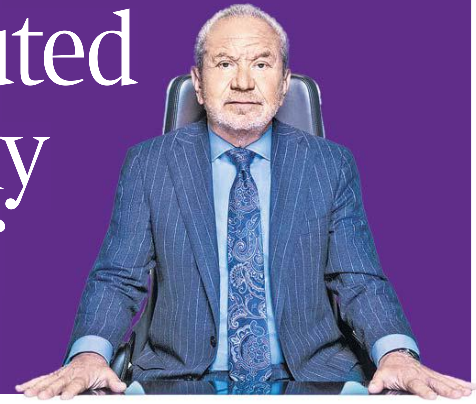


Misogynists, bullies and sexist bosses

My time in the Met Police

Alan Sugar

I've never, ever shouted at my staff



MAGAZINE

PM's focus on science is hot air, says Dyson

Inventor warns Tory policies deter investment

Oliver Wright Policy Editor
Andrew Ellson
Consumer Affairs Correspondent

Rishi Sunak has been accused by one of Britain's leading entrepreneurs of overseeing "scandalous neglect" of the science and technology sectors.

In a scathing attack, Sir James Dyson says the prime minister's pledge to make the UK a "science and technology superpower" is nothing more than a political slogan.

In a letter to The Times he warns that government policies are deterring multibillion-pound companies like Dyson from investing in the UK in favour of countries that "encourage growth and innovation rather than deter them". He also says that Sunak has refused to meet him and other "entrepreneurial, technology-focused employers and investors".

Sunak pledged to put science and technology at the heart of the government's agenda, setting out a strategy in March to develop high-tech industries backed by £370 million of investment.

He also created a separate Department for Science, Innovation and Technology to champion the sector in Whitehall. However, many businesses in the sector have been unimpressed: Dyson is the fourth boss of a large technology company to criticise government policies in recent days.

Last week, the founders of Revolut, a £33 billion tech start-up, warned that Britain was no longer an attractive place to run a business, complaining about a complex and unclear regulatory environment and a lack of government support. Microsoft, meanwhile, attacked the government for blocking its £55 billion attempted takeover of the video game maker Activision, describing the decision as the "darkest day in our four decades in Britain".

The chief executive of Paragraf, which has developed the world's first graphene semiconductor, warned yesterday that critical industries and jobs worth "hundreds of billions of pounds" would go to America, Europe and China unless ministers got their act together. "I don't think the government understands just how much harm they're doing," Simon Thomas, the company's chief executive said. "There is a real need for the UK government to invest their time, their resources and their attention if we want to lead this next era. The time is now. In five years,

Continued on page 2

HUGO BURNAND/ROYAL HOUSEHOLD 2023



Long to reign over us Three generations of kings are pictured together in a newly released coronation portrait. Page 9

VISIT…

LANZAROTE Caliente.com

Today's highlights

8.05am **Mick Lynch**, general secretary of the RMT
12.05pm **Alastair Campbell** on his book about how to rebuild trust in politics
12.35pm Suede's **Mat Osman** discusses his new novel and his favourite albums
2.45pm The Canadian-Syrian author **Zoulfa Katouh** on her highly rated book *As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow*
3.15pm The soprano **Danielle de Niese**, right, on starring in the revival of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Aspects of Love*



TIMES RADIO
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TODAY'S EDITION

Reeves eyes a power decade
Private schools do not offer children "an understanding of the world", Rachel Reeves has suggested as she revealed Labour is drawing up plans for a decade in power. **Page 4**

Justice for girl after 30 years
A paedophile who murdered Nikki Allen, seven, over 30 years ago has been brought to justice thanks to her mother's "incredible perseverance and determination". **Page 5**

Threat of an AI 'alien invasion'
The government is not doing enough to guard against the risk of a super-intelligent machine wiping out humanity, according to one of the godfathers of AI research. **Page 8**

Let Zelensky be heard, says PM
Rishi Sunak is "disappointed" by the decision not to allow President Zelensky of Ukraine to address the Eurovision Song Contest tonight, No 10 has said. **Page 10**

Pope calls for a baby boom
The Pope has joined forces with Giorgia Meloni, Italy's prime minister, to urge Italians to have more babies after the country's birthrate nosedived. **Page 39**

PwC leadership force out boss
The head of PwC in Australia left under pressure from global bosses after the firm allegedly used secret government details to market a tax avoidance plan. **Page 45**

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WEEKEND



GOLDEN AGE
How I got my best body at 60
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SATURDAY REVIEW



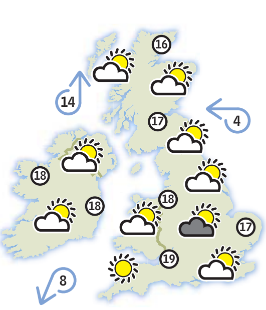
HELLO COWBOY
Yeehaw! It's Brokeback, the musical
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SPORT



NORDIC STAR
Why the Footballer of the Year will only get better
PAGES 2-3

THE WEATHER



Mainly dry with increasing amounts of sunshine and feeling warm.
Full forecast, page 73

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Whitewash claim after Tory is cleared over 'offer to lobby'

Tom Witherow, Billy Kenber

An MP filmed by an undercover reporter from The Times offering to lobby ministers and leak confidential information on behalf of gambling industry investors has been cleared of lobbying by a watchdog.

The Office of the Registrar of Consultant Lobbyists (ORCL) ruled that Scott Benton and two other Conservative MPs, Laurence Robertson and Philip Davies, did not conduct unregistered lobbying activity for bookmakers.

The body was set up in 2014 to ensure MPs declared any lobbying work, and that interactions between lobbyists and ministers or senior civil servants are transparent.

The website said it had investigated whether the MPs "conducted unregistered consultant lobbying". Laying out its "summary of rationale for decision", it said they did not conduct "unregistered consultant lobbying activity... based on assurances received".

The decisions, published on the ORCL website, led campaigners to claim a "whitewash".

The parliamentary standards commissioner has opened a formal investigation into Benton after he laughed about hiding corporate hospitality from the public. He told journalists posing as investors interested in the gambling industry that there "were ways around" rules which require MPs to disclose all hospitality worth £300 or more.


Tory MP in gambling cash-for-access scandal
Politician offered to lobby ministers on behalf of betting industry in return for payments

Scott Benton offered to help "investors"

"You'd be amazed at the number of times I've been to races and the ticket comes to £295," he said, laughing. He told the reporters he had "direct access" to ministers and could table parliamentary questions and leak a confidential document. He has had the whip removed and an investigation is ongoing.

The commissioner is investigating Benton for bringing parliament into disrepute.

A separate investigation into Robertson by the Standards Commissioner concluded that no breach of the rules occurred. The MP has been paid £2,000 a month by the Betting and Gaming Council for more than two years, and has been accused of providing paid parliamentary advice.

An investigation was launched on May 2 but it concluded three days later. Daniel Greenberg, parliamentary commissioner for standards, in a letter dated May 5, said: "My investigation focused specifically on whether Mr Robertson had acted as a paid parliamentary adviser ... I concluded that the evidence submitted did not demonstrate a breach of the rules."

Robertson said: "I don't know why they looked into it in the first place. Obviously they take all complaints very seriously but no evidence was produced."

Matt Zarb-Cousin, director of Clean Up Gambling, said: "Both these inquiries are a whitewash, and add to the evidence that anti-corruption watchdogs are not fit for purpose. Instead of taking MPs purely at their word, they should be establishing the facts."

Benton and Davies were contacted for comment.

Millions face shock when cheap mortgage deals end

Lucy Alderson

Millions of homeowners are facing a total £12 billion increase to their mortgage bills, as borrowers are warned to expect "plenty more mortgage pain".

An estimated 3.75 million households are yet to face the impact of rising mortgage rates as they are still on cheap fixed deals, according to the think tank Resolution Foundation.

These borrowers could see their annual payments rise by £2,300 on average after 12 increases to the Bank of England's base rate of interest. This week the Bank raised interest rates to 4.5 per cent, the highest level in 15 years.

The move will affect 1.4 million borrowers on their lender's standard variable rate or a variable mortgage deal. A further 1.5 million will see payments rise when their fixed deal ends this year.

For every percentage point that rates increase, monthly payments go up by about £50 per £100,000 of mortgage, meaning that if rates went up by two percentage points from 2 to 4 per cent and you had a mortgage of £200,000, your monthly payments would rise by about £200.

The Resolution Foundation said that two thirds of borrowers were yet to feel the impact of rate rises because they were still in a fixed-deal period. Fixed deals increased in popularity over the past decade as interest rates were at record lows. But these homeowners are in for a shock when their deal ends.

Two years ago the average two-year fixed mortgage was 2.57 per cent. Today it is 5.33 per cent.

Someone with a 25-year mortgage of £200,000 would see monthly repayments increase from £904 to £1,208 at these rates — an extra £3,648 a year.

British households are facing a collective £12 billion increase in their annual mortgage costs, the Resolution Foundation has calculated. The richest two fifths of UK households will make up three quarters of this total bill.

Simon Pittaway, senior economist at the think tank, said: "There will be plenty more mortgage pain to come."

Young families and low and middle-income households will face the biggest hit to their living standards, he added.

Repayments for borrowers aged 18 to 34 are expected to increase by an amount equivalent to 3.4 per cent of their income. For over-55s costs are set to rise by 1.8 per cent of their income.

Fraud case tech boss is extradited

Jonathan Ames, Legal Editor
Martin Strydom

Mike Lynch, the co-founder of Autonomy and one of the UK's most prominent technology entrepreneurs, has been extradited to the US in the latest stage of a ten-year legal battle.

Lynch, 57, faces fraud allegations over Hewlett-Packard's $11 billion (£8.8 billion) acquisition of the UK software business in 2011. He appeared in blue and orange prison clothes at a hearing yesterday morning, where a judge ordered that for him to be released on bail he would have to pay a $100 million (£80 million) bond, surrender his passport and agree to being placed under 24-hour guard. Lynch pleaded not guilty to 17 charges. A second hearing is scheduled for May 19, to set a date for his trial. If convicted he faces a prison sentence of up to 20 years.

Charles Breyer, the presiding judge at the US district court in the northern district of California, said the court was willing to hold Lynch's trial "as quickly as possible", provided both sides had sufficient time to prepare.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Dyson attacks tech policies

the opportunity will have gone because it will have grown in a different country."

In his letter to The Times, published today, Dyson cites high levels of corporation tax and a lack of support for research and development as key concerns. He also attacks a lack of skills training and a plan to prevent companies from imposing lengthy "non compete" clauses on employees who move to business rivals.

He reveals that despite being one of the UK's most successful entrepreneurs and employing more than 3,500 people in this country, he has not met Sunak since he became prime minister.

"Ministers talk hubristically of Britain becoming a 'science and technology superpower' but their woeful policies diminish this to a mere political slogan," he writes. "In the UK, Dyson now faces rocketing corporation tax (wiping out any tax credits for research and development) ... and a crippling shortage of qualified engineers."

In October, Dyson, who also owns 35,000 acres of farmland, wrote to the environment secretary, Thérèse Coffey, asking for a meeting to discuss sustainable food production. She ignored him for over six months, The Spectator reported, and he finally received a letter stating existing government policy from her junior minister, Mark Spencer.

While Dyson has form for attacking the government and moved his corporate headquarters to Singapore in 2019, his latest criticism chimes with concerns from others in the sector. A recent survey by the manufacturers' organisation Make UK found that only a third of manufacturers felt that the UK was a competitive environment in which to do business. One tech industry source said there was little evidence that ministers were taking their concerns seriously.

"They like to talk up the success of UK start-ups and claim that the tech sector is a modern British success story but there is a huge gap between the rhetoric and the reality," the source said.

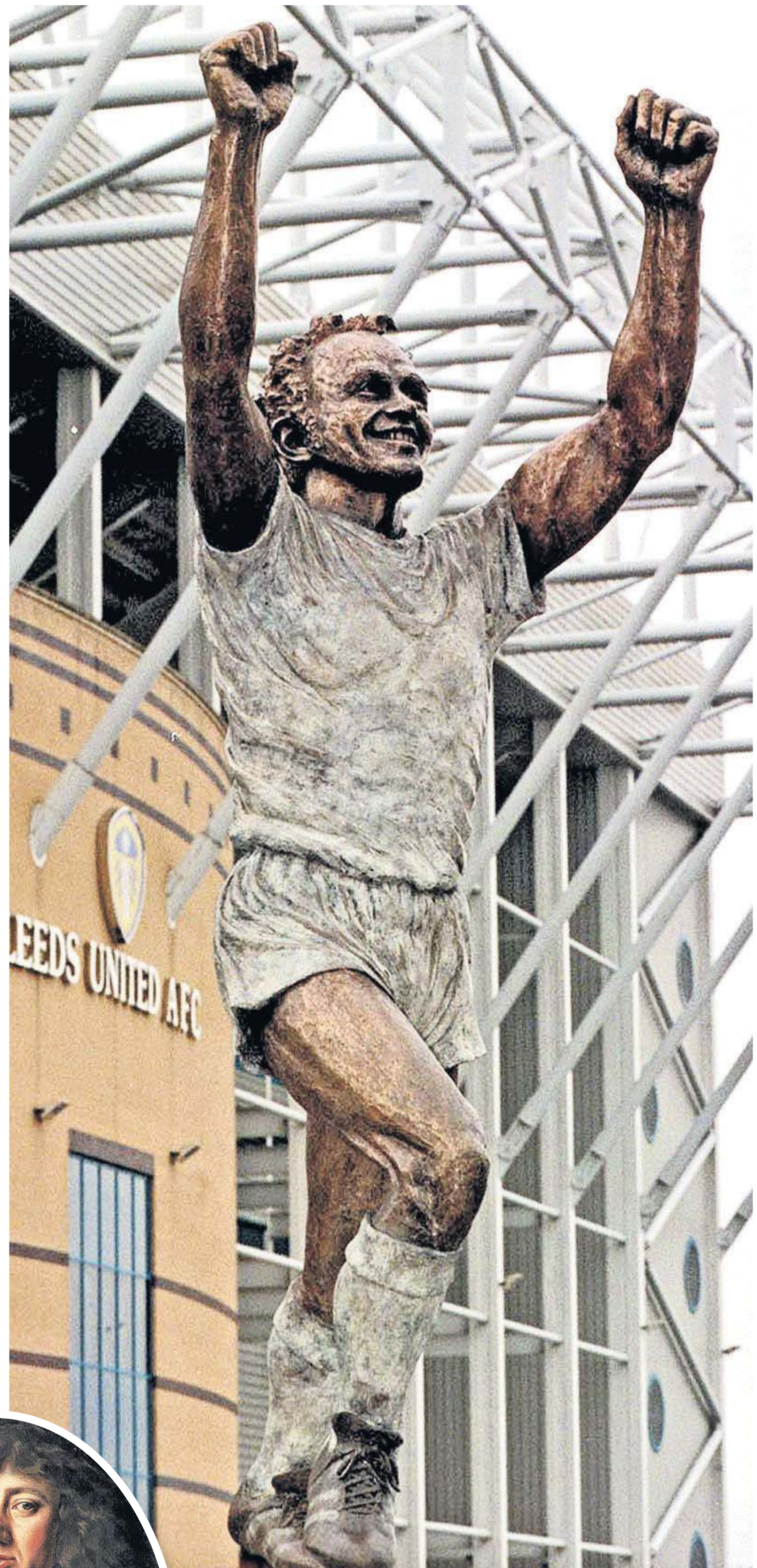
The government said last night: "The UK is open for business as an innovation nation. We boast the biggest tech sector in Europe, reaching a combined market value of £1 trillion in 2022, we have the lowest corporation tax rate in the G7 and we have world-leading strengths in science and R&D."

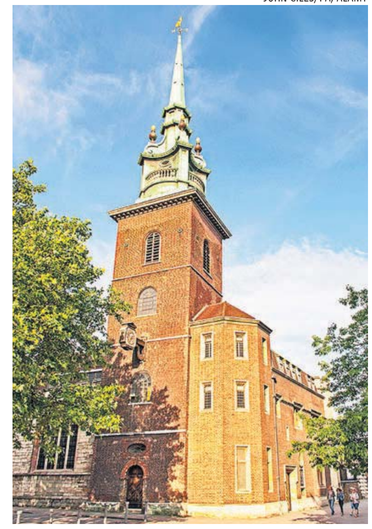
'Woeful policies', letters, page 28

JOHN GILES/PA; ALAMY



The 1950s comedian Tony Hancock was flagged as being outdated but "low risk" and All Hallows By The Tower church in the City of London was reviewed because a colonialist was baptised there





Billy Bremner must fall? Star statues given a costly audit

More than £100,000 was spent to conclude that memorials had few or no links to slavery, **James Beal** reports

Their statues serve as an enduring reminder of excellence in the arts, in entertainment and on the football pitch. But memorials to the Scottish poet Robert Burns, the comedian Tony Hancock and the Leeds United player Billy Bremner were all assessed in council-commissioned reviews examining links to slavery.

The Times has found that councils have collectively spent more than £100,000 since 2020 on audits that connected buildings, streets and statues to the slave trade. Many were commissioned after the murder of George Floyd by a white policeman in the US three years ago and the subsequent rise of the Black Lives Matter movement.

Some of Britain's most historic buildings were cited for links to slavery including Liverpool Street station and the Bank of England, as well as locations connected to the diarist Samuel Pepys.

Nigel Biggar, regius professor emeritus of moral theology at Oxford University, said there was now an "obsession" with tracing links to slavery. He said: "The idea that public funds are being spent on these exercises, given the cramped fiscal conditions in which councils are now placed, is crazy."

The Times sent freedom of information requests to 45 councils about audits conducted into buildings, statues and street names in connection with the slave trade.

In 2020 Edinburgh council agreed to establish an independent slavery and colonialism legacy review following the rise of Black Lives Matter. The review, which cost £18,500, was led by Sir Geoff Palmer, Scotland's first black professor and a seasoned human rights activist. It published a report in June last year including information on a statue of Robert Burns, at the Scottish National Portrait Gallery.

It said that he secured the offer of a job working as a book-keeper on a Jamaican plantation "worked by enslaved people".



Billy Bremner was known as an "anti-racist", while Samuel Pepys was said to be a shareholder in a slave-trading group

The report adds that the successful publication of his first set of poems in 1786 led him to change his plans. It says: "He never visited the Caribbean."

The report sought out responses from the public, with some remarking that Burns's inclusion appeared to be an attack on him.

When approached by The Times, Cammy Day, the leader of Edinburgh council, said they were "incredibly proud" of the slavery and colonialism legacy review group. He said: "Racism must be talked about, and action to end it must be supported if it is to be stamped out."

The City of London Corporation, which governs the Square Mile, set up a Tackling Racism Taskforce to combat racism in 2020. An "exploratory audit" identified 65 buildings, streets or statues "with confirmed or possible connections" to the slave trade or colonialism.

Liverpool Street station, named after Robert Jenkinson, the 2nd Earl of Liverpool and former prime minister, was linked to it because he gave a speech against the abolition of the slave trade.

All Hallows By The Tower, the oldest church in the City, had an "indirect link" to the slave trade, the audit said, because the English colonialist William Penn was baptised there in 1644.

The Bank of England was said to have a link to slavery because it has previously admitted connections involving former governors and directors.

The review also identifies a pub named after the diarist Samuel Pepys because he had been a shareholder in a slave trading group.

The corporation said it was proud of its work to ensure that the City was a place "where people of all ethnicities and backgrounds feel safe and welcome".

Birmingham council conducted an internal public art review in 2020 to assess "what could be identified by protagonists as having links with the transatlantic slave trade or colonialism".

The review classified a statue of the comedian Tony Hancock as "low risk", saying that there was "some social commentary" connected to him which was "reflective of the time". It said this could "potentially have included content that could now be deemed as outdated".

The council said: "Regarding Tony Hancock, this was simply a comment in an internal review about some of the comedian's material from the 1950s and 1960s."

Leeds council confirmed that a 1999 statue of the Scottish footballer Billy Bremner, who played for Leeds United from 1959 to 1976, was reviewed for links to the slave trade and colonialism. Bremner, who died in 1997, has been praised as an "anti-racist" who went out of his way to protect black Leeds United players. A spokesman for Leeds council said: "There is no suggestion that statue in particular has any links to the slave trade or colonialism."

The review concluded that there "appeared to be no individuals honoured by statues in Leeds who were known to be directly central to the slave trade".

Have a breakfast, have a Kit Kat: cereal prompts obesity fears

Chris Smyth Whitehall Editor

The launch of a Kit Kat breakfast cereal shows that the government strategy of relying on food companies to voluntarily fight obesity has failed, campaigners have claimed.

Charities such as the British Heart Foundation accused Nestlé, the manufacturer of Kit Kat, of "irresponsible" promotion, arguing that the government needed to intervene to make food healthier. Nestlé, the world's biggest food company, called the accusation "wildly unfair" and said it was open to regulation that would incentivise all food companies to make healthier products. It launched the Kit Kat cereal last month. The product was initially described on the company's website as "nutritious", a claim that was removed after consumer backlash. The product contains 420 calories, 24.7g of sugar and 10.9g of fat per 100g.

In a letter to The Times, ten charities protested about the product and its promotion, stating: "Nestlé has repeatedly said in public that it is committed to selling healthier food, yet in private it continues to research and develop new ways to sell us sugar, before spending millions on advertising and promoting products in exciting packaging with misleading nutritional claims.

"It should not take a consumer backlash to get irresponsible companies to act. The case for government intervention is clear."

Nestlé insisted that the "nutritious" claim was made only on its global website, adding that the product is not promoted to children and that 84 per cent of its cereals were not classed as unhealthy.



A spokesman said: "Nestlé devotes significant resources to developing food, drink and nutrition products that are healthier and more sustainable. It is wildly unfair to suggest there isn't a driving force within Nestlé to improve nutrition."

The health department said: "We have delivered dramatic reductions in the amount of sugar in foods eaten by children, including a 14.9 per cent decrease in the sugar content of breakfast cereals."

Case for intervention is clear, letters, page 28

Minister's migrant dig at colleague

Matt Dathan Home Affairs Editor

A minister has said he will not oppose the opening of a migrant camp in his constituency because he does not want to be "two-faced" about the government's immigration policy.

Huw Merriman, the rail minister, acknowledged there was anger among people in his Bexhill & Battle constituency in East Sussex over plans to repurpose a former prison at Northeye to accommodate 1,200 asylum seekers. However, he insisted that as a member of the government responsible for implementing such policies, he supported the move.

His comments have been seen as a dig at his colleague James Cleverly, the foreign secretary, who has opposed plans to convert a former RAF base at Wethersfield in his Braintree constituency into a migrant camp.

The mass accommodation sites at Northeye and Wethersfield are being opened to move more than 51,000 asylum seekers out of hotels. The hotel accommodation system costs £6 million a day. Two other sites have been announced to accommodate migrants: a barge at Portland Port in Dorset, which will house up to 500, and RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, which will house up to 2,000. In total, the sites are due to accommodate about 5,400 people.

Merriman told *Good Morning Britain* on ITV: "Four MPs have to step up. Their community is not happy, but I'm not a hypocrite and I'll be straight … but I'd rather be straight and honest and have some principles than be two-faced, and that, I'm afraid, is what we're dealing with."

Home Office officials have been trawling through a list of other disused Crown properties as part of an effort to find accommodation for at least 25,000 migrants. The officials have been asked to look for places to host families with young children.

VAGNER VIDAL/HYDE NEWS & PICTURES



Taking the reins Lady Louise Windsor takes part in carriage driving on the second day of the Royal Windsor Horse Show. The event, which also features show jumping and dressage and has competitors from across the world, finishes on Sunday

Quintagram® No 1627

Solve all five concise clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Australian wild dog (5)

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2 Ecclesiastical council (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 South American pack animal (5)

_ _ _ _ _

4 Nonrepresentational (in art) (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Form of property tenure (9)

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A	A	A	A	A	B	C	D
D	D	E	E	G	H	I	L
L	L	L	M	N	N	O	O
O	R	S	S	S	T	T	Y

Solutions Register p79
Cryptic clues Review p53

Bellfield confession

Police are preparing to dig for the remains of Elizabeth Chau, a student who went missing 24 years ago, after Levi Bellfield confessed to killing her and burying her body in woodland. Chau, a computer studies student at Thames Valley University, was 19 when she vanished in west London. Bellfield, 54, is serving a whole life sentence for the murders of two women and of Milly Dowler, the schoolgirl snatched from the street in 2002.

Still on Nessie duty

After 32 years monster-watching beside Loch Ness, Steve Feltham is used to disappointment. He was rewarded in his first year with a sighting but "that is where I'm stopped, still waiting for that second glimpse", he told BBC *Good Morning Scotland*. In 2015 he said that modern Nessie sightings tended to be of Wels catfish, which can be 4m long.

Reeves sets sights on a decade in power

Steven Swinford Political Editor
Henry Zeffman Associate Political Editor
Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

Private schools do not offer children "an understanding of the world around them", Rachel Reeves has suggested as she revealed Labour is drawing up plans for a decade in power.

The shadow chancellor said that while it is matter of parental choice, she sends her two children to state schools because she wants them to mix with "children from all backgrounds".

Reeves, 44, spoke as Sir Keir Starmer vowed to "go further and deeper than New Labour", and said his transformation of the party was an "on-steroids" version of Sir Tony Blair's symbolic decision to rewrite Clause Four of the party rulebook, which called for common ownership on industry.

Labour has vowed to end private schools' VAT exemption if it wins, a policy that led Rishi Sunak to accuse Starmer of attacking aspiration.

While Reeves said that "people make lots of different decisions for why they send their children to different schools", she said she would never send her children to private school. "I really believe in state services," she said in an interview with The Times. "And I want my children to go to school with children from all different types of backgrounds and have an understanding of the world around them. I went to a state school and did really well. I want my children to have to work for what they achieve in life.

"I don't want my children to be at a school where everybody has parents who earn enough to send them there. That's not what the world is like. I want them to see the world as it is."

Reeves added: "There is a principled thing for me. Also, school fees are incredibly expensive. You'd have to make big cutbacks in other parts of your life to be able to afford that, even on a salary like mine."

Private schools have claimed that they would be forced to raise fees and cut back on bursaries should their tax breaks be revoked. Their pupils benefited from £1.2 billion of help with fees in 2021, of which £960 million was provided directly by schools, according to the most recent census published by the Independent Schools Council.

However, of this only £480 million was provided on a means-tested basis that took family income into account. And only 5,444 pupils — about 1 per cent of the total — were on bursaries or scholarships that covered all their fees. Fees were frozen in most cases during the pandemic but have risen substantially in some cases this year.

Reeves said that Labour would need two terms to "turn around the economy and public services".

She said: "The damage the Tories have done in the last 13 years is going to make the job of an incoming Labour government difficult. It'll be a real challenge. We're not going to be able to do everything straight away. And it will take a decade to turn that around and that's why we're talking about that period of time."

Addressing a conference of Labour activists today, Starmer will say that Labour is on the "path towards power" but that "the toughest part lies ahead".

Starmer will draw a link to Blair's modernisation of Labour's constitution in 1995, which ditched the commitment to "common ownership of the means of production", saying: "Some people think that all we're doing is distancing ourselves from the previous regime — that totally misses the point.

"This is about taking our party back to where we belong and where we should always have been — back doing what we were created to do. That's why I say this project goes further and deeper than New Labour's rewriting of Clause Four. This is about rolling our sleeves up, changing our entire culture — our DNA. This is Clause Four on steroids."

I could learn a lot from George Osborne, Saturday interview, page 36

Labour preparing to make home working a legal right

Henry Zeffman

Labour is considering giving Britons a legal right to work from home if the party wins the next election.

A policy of making flexible working the default option is part of an 86-page compilation of policies which is likely to form the basis of Sir Keir Starmer's general election manifesto.

The policy platform, leaked to LabourList, will be considered as part of the party's national policy forum in July. As part of a section on "a new deal for working people", it says Labour would "make flexible working the default from day one for all workers, except where it is not reasonably feasible".

The policy was announced by Angela Rayner, Labour's deputy leader, in 2021. At the time, Labour said that as well as enabling people to work from home, flexible working options could include compressed hours, staggered hours, or the ability to fit working hours around school runs or caring responsibilities.

The national policy forum, made up of representatives of Labour members, trade unions and other affiliates, will debate the policies in July. The programme will then be approved at Labour's annual conference in October. The manifesto will ultimately be drawn up by Starmer's team.

In their 2019 election manifesto, the Tories said that they would boost workers' rights to request flexible working. In December the government reiterated that this was its policy, but legislation has not yet been passed.

Announcing the Labour policy in 2021, Rayner also called for a "right to switch off", which ensured that did not "mean homes turning into 24/7 offices."

Rayner added: "Giving workers the right to work flexibly if they want to and the right to switch off will enable more people to enjoy the benefits of flexible working. As a starting point this must mean the right to flexible working — not just the right to ask for flexibility — and a duty on employers to accommodate this unless there is a reason a certain job can't be done flexibly."

Labour and Lib Dems need to be open about a pact, leading article, page 29

Mother brings killer to justice after 30 years

Tom Ball Northern Correspondent
Kevin Donald

A paedophile has been brought to justice 30 years after he murdered a seven-year-old girl thanks to the "incredible perseverance and determination" of her mother, who tracked down the killer and pleaded with police to reinvestigate.

Yesterday a jury found David Boyd, 55, guilty of the murder of Nikki Allen in Sunderland in October 1992.

Newcastle crown court was told that the shy schoolgirl had "unwittingly skipped to her death" after being lured to a derelict warehouse in the docklands, 300 yards from her home, by a man whom she knew and trusted.

Boyd hit her with a brick and stabbed her 37 times before dragging her body through the building and hiding it in the basement.

When the verdict came back after two and a half hours' deliberation, shouts of "you bastard" could be heard in the public gallery, as members of Nikki's family wept and hugged one another.

Boyd's conviction marked the end of a dogged campaign by Nikki's mother, Sharon Henderson, 55, who never gave up in her pursuit of her daughter's murderer. Long after the police had closed the case, she spent years trying to find the culprit.



David Boyd was convicted of murder after Sharon Henderson tracked him

First she tried to track down any man who lived on the estate she had any suspicion about, drawing a map of the block of maisonettes and ruling out each resident in turn.

Eventually only one was left: Boyd. He had recently arrived at Wear Garth housing estate, where he lived with his girlfriend under a different name.

"He was a young man then, but a loner. The only time I can remember seeing him was when he was out on the veranda in front of the flats on his floor," Henderson said. "I don't remember speaking to him.

"He was there during the police search for Nikki and always hanging around … my sister's flat, but after Nikki's death he left the Garth. I couldn't get that thought out of my mind and I knew I had to somehow track down where he had gone."

At the time of the murder, Boyd was 25 and was the boyfriend of Caroline Branton, who occasionally babysat Nikki. She said: "I wanted to be close to them and find out what they knew about who and where he was. I just knew he had something to do with it."

Henderson "made it [her] business" to become friends with Branton, who was then no longer with Boyd, and even moved to the pit village of Ryhope to be near to her.

In 2016 Henderson had a meeting with Steve Ashman, then the chief constable of Northumbria, and pleaded with him to make sure that the case was reopened by a new team before his retirement.

A cold case team was set up and shortly afterwards Boyd was tracked down to an upstairs flat in central Stockton-on-Tees. For years he had lived under assumed names, making it difficult to find him.

He was given a DNA test and found to be a one-in-28,000 match for microscopic samples found at four places on two items of Nikki's clothing. The DNA was on the waistband of her cycling shorts and under the armpits of her T-shirt, which itself had been under her coat. The evidence would prove to be the decisive factor at his trial.

"While there was still breath in my body I would never have stopped until the man who killed Nikki was found. Nothing mattered more in my life than seeing justice for her," Henderson said.

"Over these 30 years I have been through hell. I've fought against problems with alcohol and I've been sectioned in a psychiatric hospital. But I knew I'd get him, one way or another, however long it took, I'd see him locked up.

"Sometimes it felt as though the police had forgotten all about the case and in truth, for long periods, they had. It felt like the only one who never forgot about Nikki was me, and that was a lonely struggle."

Claiming that she was treated "like a drunken mother with mental health problems", Henderson said she felt that she was never listened to by police.

"They had so many chances to catch Boyd years and years ago," she said. "Instead I have spent 30 years investigating Nikki's death myself and I could have been spared that if the police had done their job properly."

During the original investigation, led by Detective Superintendent George Sinclair, now deceased, Northumbria police prosecuted the wrong man, George Heron, who was cleared after a trial in 1993.

Detectives also failed to pick up on Boyd's two previous convictions at the time Nikki was murdered. In 1986 he was convicted of causing a breach of the peace by approaching a group of young children, aged between eight and ten in Sacriston, Co Durham. He seized one girl by the arm and asked her for a kiss, warning them not to say anything before he left.

He had a further conviction, also from 1986, for indecent exposure against an adult woman who was out jogging when he encountered her.

Brad Howe, an assistant chief constable, thanked Nikki's family for "their patience and strength over the last 30 years".

"David Boyd hid his crime, lying about his involvement and prolonging the family's suffering, knowing all along that he had taken the life of their little girl," he said.

"The investigation into Nikki's murder has been one of the most complex and comprehensive ever conducted by Northumbria police.

"I'm extremely proud of the investigative team and all those who played their part in securing this conviction. I further hope this sends a strong message that no matter how long ago an offence took place, we will do everything we can to see justice served."

Boyd will be sentenced on May 23.



PA

Nikki Allen was lured from her home to a derelict warehouse 300 yards away, lower right, and beaten and stabbed to death

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Shapps attacks Badenoch on EU

Oliver Wright, Steven Swinford

Grant Shapps has attacked his cabinet colleague Kemi Badenoch for failing to push through the government's "bonfire" of European rules and regulations, claiming that she gave in to civil service opposition to the plan.

The energy secretary, who had responsibility for the policy until a reorganisation of government departments in February, has privately made clear that he saw no need to abandon the plan when he was business secretary.

Sources said Shapps believed that the proposal to scrap or reform all EU laws on the UK statute book by the end of this year was "entirely doable" and that "good progress" was being made when he was in charge of the policy.

Amid a cabinet rift over the U-turn, another government source disputed Shapps's account, claiming that he had gone to Downing Street when he was



Grant Shapps claimed the "bonfire" was on track when he was in charge

business secretary to warn Rishi Sunak that the deadline set in the legislation could not be met.

Right-wing Tory MPs are increasingly turning to Suella Braverman, the home secretary, who will take centre stage at a conference in London organised by a right-wing Conservative think tank. They have been left infuriated by Badenoch after she watered down plans to repeal existing EU law that is still on the UK statute book.

However, a senior government source suggested that in confronting Tory MPs on the right of the party Badenoch, who was a committed Brexiteer, has in fact boosted her chances of becoming the next Tory leader by broadening her appeal and presenting herself as pragmatic centralist.

Supporters of Boris Johnson, the former prime minister, will attend the Conservative Democratic Organisation conference in Bournemouth today. The organisation has accused Tory MPs of betrayal for ousting Johnson despite his support among party members. Priti Patel, the former home secretary, and Jacob Rees-Mogg, the former business secretary, will make appearances. Johnson will not attend in person but will make a video address.

Tobias Ellwood, the Tory MP for Bournemouth East, accused right-wing Tory MPs of acting as a "drag anchor" and warned that they could cost the party the next election.

The dispute over the retained EU law bill, which is going through the House of Lords, is seen by some as a proxy battle for the soul of a Tory party still divided by positions on Brexit.

Badenoch said that her plan to water down the legislation represented the "pragmatic middle-ground" and suggested that the fact she was attacked by both Tory Brexiteers and the Labour Party showed she had got the balance right.

However, Rees-Mogg, who steered the bill through the Commons as business secretary, suggested the change was either the result of "civil service idleness or a lack of ministerial drive". He was backed by the former justice secretary Dominic Raab, who urged Badenoch to "resist the resistance in Whitehall" to the proposals.

The Times understands that Shapps, who took over from Rees-Mogg as business secretary, has made it clear that he agreed with Raab, telling colleagues that when he left the department in February the legislation was on track.

Some suspect he may still have his own leadership ambitions and is keen to use Badenoch's move to burnish his credentials on the right of the party.

"Grant's view was this was entirely achievable and that Kemi is simply not right to say that it couldn't be done," a source said. "He's been letting people know that in his view she should have stuck to the original plan as that is what we'd committed to doing."

A spokesman for Shapps said: "The energy security secretary knows from experience that removing 50 years of EU regulations is no mean feat. And he agrees that it must be done considerately to ensure we can maximise the benefits of Brexit."

Patel said grassroots members had been treated with "nothing but contempt". She is set to warn against the Tories presiding over a "managed decline" which risks the total loss of "conservative values and beliefs".

Badenoch was right to abandon pledge to scrap EU law, leading article, page 29

Put pay offer to members, rail minister tells unions

Ben Clatworthy
Transport Correspondent

Rail unions should put the government's "fair and reasonable" pay offer to their members, the rail minister has said.

Huw Merriman apologised to passengers inconvenienced by rail strikes, adding: "The sad reality of this situation is that there are offers on the table which have been given to both the train drivers' union and the RMT.

"The leadership has chosen not to put those offers to their members and I feel if they did, there would be the opportunity for members to decide if they wish to take them."

Merriman told Times Radio that the pay offer made to Aslef, the drivers' union, would see average base pay increase from £60,000 to £65,000 for a 35-hour week. Union sources rejected the minister's claims. They said: "Merriman is speaking hot air. He knows full well that the offer made to Aslef has a number of red lines in it that the union would never agree to. If it were put to members they would reject it outright."

Sources at Aslef, which sees itself as a more moderate union than the RMT, said some drivers were urging it to call 30 days of consecutive strikes, closing the railway for an entire month.

"There are drivers that say we are not going hard enough," the source said.

Just one in five rail services ran yesterday. Train staff who are members of the RMT at 14 train operating companies will walk out today.

Officials say the offer to Aslef is 4 per cent for 2022 followed by a further 4 per cent this year, conditional on changes to working practices.

Merriman said: "We feel these are fair and reasonable."

After the poll bruising, it's a battle for the future

Sunak's potential successors are setting out their stalls, **Steven Swinford** writes



While Rishi Sunak will try to show he is getting on with the job, Kemi Badenoch and Suella Braverman may already be jockeying for the leadership and Michael Gove and Jacob Rees-Mogg are joining a battle for renewed ideas on the right

Rishi Sunak has invited every Conservative MP to a reception in the Downing Street garden on Monday evening to celebrate the coronation.

Pork pies from his local butcher in Yorkshire that are "the size of doorsteps" will be at the centre of a "rough and ready" spread as the parliamentary party catches up en masse for the first time since last week's dismal local election results.

Sunak himself is determined not to listen to the noise and is pushing on with his plan. He marked his 43rd birthday yesterday with some takeaway samosas from Dishoom, one of his favourite restaurants, and a carrot cake in his private office with aides over lunch before continuing to work.

"He's getting his head down, he's focused on delivering at pace," an ally said.

For a growing number of backbenchers, however, and for some cabinet ministers, that delivery is not happening fast enough. So far, the fallout from the elections, in which the Conservatives lost more than 1,000 councillors, exceeding even attempts to manage expectations, has been relatively limited.

At a meeting of the backbench 1922 Committee on Wednesday, several of those present gave voice to their dissatisfaction during an audience with Greg Hands, the party chairman.

The MPs told him that Conservative Campaign Headquarters must "up its game" if it is to match Labour on the ground. One red-wall MP complained that they hadn't seen ministers on the campaign trail, despite a pledge to prioritise marginal seats.

Hands apologised for the result and said that he was writing personally to every councillor who lost their seat. He said that fundraising was going well and that the party was reviewing its "80-20" list of marginal seats that it was seeking to defend and target.

While few bear animosity towards Hands personally, there is concern, particularly on the right of the party. One of those said that the aftermath of the local elections, while not explosive, would have a long fuse.

"People are realising that the end is nigh," one of those at the meeting said. "Discipline is going to be very difficult, people in marginal seats will be all in it for themselves.

"Rishi's big challenge now is keeping morale up, belief up and keeping everyone on board the ship."

Some MPs, particularly on the right of the party, have already given up hope despite Sunak's assurances that there is a "narrow path" to victory whenever the election comes.

They are starting to prepare for the "future wars" in the aftermath of defeat, with Suella Braverman, the home secretary, and Kemi Badenoch, the business and trade secretary, considered as potential successors to Sunak.

Some of those rifts broke into public view this week after Badenoch watered down plans to put a sunset clause on more than 4,000 EU laws that would have effectively abolished them by the end of this year. Instead, most will now stay, with only about 550 being removed from the statute book.

Badenoch was unapologetic, expressing her "delight" in the Commons this week that she has managed to anger both hardline Eurosceptics and Labour. The breadth of opposition, she suggested, was evidence that she was taking the "pragmatic middle ground".

Her comments predictably enraged those on the right of the party who were shocked that Badenoch — herself a committed Brexiteer — had engaged in a "massive U-turn".

One Tory Brexiteer claimed that her chances of being Tory leader were now finished. "I don't think her prospects are particularly bright after that performance," they said. "She's crashed and burnt and, given that, I would have thought that any chance she did have of being leader has been completely wiped out."

A senior government source said, though, that Badenoch might yet turn the situation to her advantage should Sunak lose the election. "You can't win the Conservative leadership with just the support of the right of the party," they said. "You need the middle as well. Kemi is playing a longer game. It may not look like it now but in the long term it could work for her."

They said that the European Research Group, once the biggest power-broker in the Conservative Party, was a diminished force with a slim 22 Tory MPs rebelling against Sunak's Windsor framework Brexit deal when it came to the Commons.

For most of those on the right of the

law as Tories jostle for position



party there is increasingly only one candidate for the future — Braverman. On Monday the home secretary will be the star attraction at the NatCon conference in London, organised by a right-wing Conservative think tank.

Backed by the US-based Edmund Burke Foundation the conference pitch claims that conservatism in Britain "has lost its way" and "forgotten what we really believe" in the wake of the Brexit referendum.

Braverman is expected to use the speech to spell out what conservatism means to her, the Conservative journey she has been on and how that was influenced by her family background.

While she will not be explicitly laying out a vision for what she wants in the Tory party's election manifesto, her focus on her own beliefs is likely to be interpreted as a call for the party to adopt a more traditional and right-wing agenda on tax cuts, lower immigration, a back-to-basics approach to policing and a tougher stance on the European Convention on Human Rights.

One of her allies said that she would position herself as a "purist" and was "making the most" of a "difficult wicket" as home secretary. "She would go back to a more radical approach to Brexit, she would want to see the Retained EU Law Bill reinstated and pursued so as a result of that we would get a much faster realisation of Brexit," they said.

"And she would take a far more robust stance on illegal migration. She would take the party more towards the right. In economic terms, she would place far more focus on growth, in a similar context but much better executed than Liz Truss's approach."

Braverman is among a number of senior Tories taking part in the event including Michael Gove, the levelling-up secretary, Jacob Rees-Mogg, the former business secretary, and Lord Frost, the former Brexit negotiator.

Some Tory MPs are concerned that the event is a "nefarious" attempt to import "far-right Republican ideas" on the Conservative Party and that Braverman is being lined up as a standard bearer for an ideological leadership battle if the Tories do lose the next election.

In the US the group has backed defunding "partisan" universities and called for a potential "moratorium" on immigration.

"This is a group that is trying nefariously to engineer an ideological shift in our party which is deeply concerning," said one Tory MP on the left of the party. "It's about transporting extreme right-wing culture wars and American division and rhetoric, which we need to reject at all costs." James Orr, the UK chairman of the foundation that is organising the conference, said that the event was "not an attempt to create mischief" in the Tory party and that only a fraction of its speakers and participants were politicians.

But he said that the party was at a "crossroads" and that the conference was an opportunity to "thrash out ideas" for a way forward.

Today will also see right-wing Tory MPs take centre stage at a conference organised by the Conservative Democratic Organisation in Bournemouth. The conference will be attended by Priti Patel, the former home secretary, and other prominent allies of Boris Johnson, the former prime minister.

While Johnson himself will not go to the event, he will be there in spirit in the form of a video message to his faithful. The conference will focus on claims that Tory MPs undermined the democratic will of party members by removing Johnson as prime minister.

The MP Andrea Jenkyns, who is an opera singer and a prominent backer of Johnson, will open the conference with a rendition of *God Save the King*.

The former prime minister will also feature at a black-tie gala dinner in the form of several auction prizes. Those attending will have the chance to bid for bottles of wine signed by Johnson, a signed first edition of his book on Sir Winston Churchill, and lunch with an array of his backers.

David Campbell Bannerman, a former Tory MEP and chairman of the Conservative Democratic Organisation, said: "We're not bringing back Boris; however, we do feel that he was very badly treated, and the members would have kept him if they'd had a confirmatory ballot, which is what I suggested. The Boris thing really arises again from a lack of democracy.

"We don't know if Boris wants to come back but I think our position is we back what the members want. If the members want Boris back then we must respect that, and every indication is 60 per cent of them do want Boris, actually."

Not all Tory MPs agree, however. One said that both conferences were being used by small factions of the party to advance their own cause while the vast majority of MPs were focused on saving as many of their seats as possible in next year's general election.

"Frankly, there's no chatter about either of these conferences in the WhatsApp groups and no one has even talked to me about them," they said.

"The vast majority of colleagues have better things to do with their time. It all feels very fringe."

Another suggested — slightly jokingly — it raised the spectre of futile Labour-style ideological infighting for the future of the Tory party. "It all feels like a poor man's Momentum," they said.

Additional reporting by Matt Dathan Geraldine Scott and Oliver Wright

Right-wing rebels will gift power to Labour

Tobias Ellwood
Comment

If the Conservatives lose the next general election, it will not be because of our policies, "partygate" or Liz Truss's fiscal irresponsibility. Our downfall will be from within.

A drag anchor of a right-wing caucus is in our ranks, and it has already written off any prospects of victory in 2024. As statecraft finally returns to No10, guiding us into far calmer waters, less-than-subtle plots are afoot to shift our party to the right during the blame game that invariably follows electoral defeat.

Let's have the courage to expose this rebellion in our ranks. Instead of rallying behind the leader and going over the top with one clear vision for the country, some colleagues are rallying around misleadingly named rebel groups, such as the National Conservatives, which holds a conference next week in London, or the Conservative Democracy Organisation, which is holding one in my constituency of Bournemouth East.

Addressed by luminaries of the Johnson and Truss eras, neither of these gatherings will support the present prime minister or call for unity. Instead, they will appeal to a slice of our membership with a familiar playbook pronouncing Thatcher/Reagan-style tax cuts (conveniently forgetting that both of them raised taxes too), Europe-bashing and culture wars. This is a recipe for disaster, as disloyal as it is reckless. It fails to recognise the fighting chance we have of winning.

The local election results were miserable. But this was more about punishing the Tories rather than rallying to Labour's cause.

After almost a decade of political turmoil, involving no fewer than five prime ministers, we have now entered a more measured and less turbulent period. Understandably, the electorate is hesitant. But Boris Johnson's bombastic populism has been replaced by Rishi Sunak's pragmatism and diplomacy.

We have everything to play for. Some policy areas obviously require work, but as inflation decreases, economic confidence will rise. The nation expects steadfast leadership in pursuit of a clear agenda.

We face an inflection point. Stand together, fight together and we have a chance in 2024. Look divided and distracted, and we simply gift power to Labour. As the prime minster rebuilds unity, discipline and purpose in the ranks, tribal disloyalty should be contested. Allowing it to ferment will mean we throw away not only this election but almost certainly the one after that, as our party repeats the 1990s and descends into civil war.

Tobias Ellwood is the Conservative MP for Bournemouth East

AI 'could be like an alien invasion'

A British professor who laid foundations for the new tech says ministers have been complacent, **Rhys Blakely** writes

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Professor Stuart Russell worked on the foundations of AI 40 years ago — and would now alter the way it was initially built

The government is not doing enough to guard against the risk of a superintelligent machine wiping out humanity, according to one of the godfathers of AI research.

Professor Stuart Russell, who has advised Downing Street and the White House, said he was frustrated that ministers have argued in favour of light-touch regulation of the AI industry, despite civil servants concluding its products could pose an existential threat.

Along with Elon Musk and the Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak, Russell recently signed an open letter which warned that AI labs were "locked in an out-of-control race to develop and deploy ever more powerful digital minds that no one, not even their creators, can understand, predict, or reliably control".

He said that the abilities of ChatGPT — a chatbot that has passed exams, writes computer code and can compose fluent, if not always accurate, prose on a given subject in seconds — had surpassed his expectations.

Given the pace of progress, it was time to "to take a breath" and think about what controls were needed to prevent the release of an ungovernable AI. "We've made progress without expecting to," he said. It was possible, he added, that a system similar to ChatGPT could form part of a superintelligent machine that would resist any attempt to control it.

"How do you maintain power over entities that are more powerful than you — for ever? If you don't have an answer, then stop doing the research. It's as simple as that. The stakes couldn't be higher: if we don't control our own civilisation, we have no say in whether we continue to exist."

Russell is a professor of computer science at the University of California, Berkeley, and a fellow of Wadham College, Oxford. He has worked for the UN to create a new system for monitoring the nuclear test-ban treaty, and is a co-author of the most widely used university textbook on artificial intelligence.

This year he was asked to advise the UK government. "The Foreign Office had a few consultation exercises," he said. "They talked to a lot of people and they concluded that loss of control [of a powerful AI] was a plausible and extremely high-significance outcome.

"And then the government came out with a regulatory approach that says, 'Nothing to see here. Carry on as you were before. We'll welcome the AI industry as if, you know, we were talking about making cars.'"

A government spokesperson said: "We recognise that as artificial intelligence systems become more powerful, they will create new challenges and risks, which is why the International Technology Strategy includes a public commitment to initiate a global dialogue on AI risks.

"We will need to act and adapt the way we regulate technologies like AI that are playing an increasingly vital role in our economy and society, and a collaborative approach with experts is fundamental to addressing AI risk and supporting responsible development and use.

"The government recently launched the AI Foundation Model Taskforce with £100 million of funding. The taskforce will lay the foundations for the safe use of foundation models across the economy, and ensure that the UK is at the forefront of this pivotal AI technology. Similarly the AI white paper set out a pro-innovation strategy which supports the UK's flourishing AI industry while making sure the technology is being used fairly and safely."

In March the government said it wanted to "avoid heavy-handed legislation which could stifle innovation and take an adaptable approach to regulating AI". Russell said he was concerned that ministers had been "well trained" by the technology industry, which makes similar arguments. "Those messages have been very effective and the tech companies have spent billions of dollars drumming them into legislatures all over the world. I think they've been a bit too successful," he said.

Russell was born in Portsmouth and studied physics at Oxford before moving to California to complete a PhD at Stanford in 1986. He is recognised as having helped lay the foundations for the advances seen in AI in recent years.

He is often asked, he said, about when he expects to see a so-called artificial general intelligence (AGI), a system capable of any intellectual task that a human being can perform. Until relatively recently he thought this landmark was decades away. Now, he is not so sure.

"My timeline has shrunk a bit," he said. The creation of an AGI — which he has likened to the arrival of a superior alien civilisation — could potentially be seen within ten years, he said, although he still feels this is "pretty unlikely". It would be the most significant event in human history, he added. And unless governments start to police AI research vigorously, he fears it could be the last.

For the past decade Russell has been vocal in calling for a ban on using AI to create autonomous weapons. He has also studied the problem of how to align AIs with human interests. Asked whether he now regretted aspects of his career, he said: "I've thought about that a lot. And I suppose I could say, in my defence, that I've spent ten years now working on solutions to these issues."

One risk involves a powerful AI being set a task and then choosing a strategy that accomplishes the goal, but with unanticipated side-effects that are calamitous for humanity. He has used the example of a world where an AI is asked to solve climate change and decides that the best way of reaching net zero is to rid the Earth of people.

To avoid these kinds of outcomes, he believes that AI researchers should follow three principles. An AI's only goal, he said, must be to maximise the realisation of human goals. It must remain uncertain about what those are — so it has to keep asking. And it must try to understand what those goals are by observing human behaviour. However, building AI systems that meet those criteria would involve discarding much of what has fuelled recent progress.

"I think we got something wrong right at the beginning, where we were so enthralled by the notion of understanding and creating intelligence, we didn't think about what that intelligence was going to be for," he said. "Unless its only purpose is to be a benefit to humans, you are actually creating a competitor — and that would be obviously a stupid thing to do."

He added: "I wish that the ideas that I've been working on over the last ten years — I wish that I had had those ideas 40 years ago, because it involves quite a big change in the technical foundations of AI." Making those changes would take "time that we may not have".

One issue, he said, was that AIs were being built that mirrored aspects of the human character. ChatGPT is what is known as a large language model (LLM) — a type of AI that is fed vast amounts of text taken from the internet. From this, it learns to compose text by predicting what word should come next in any given context.

Exactly how these systems work is a mystery. "They're not understood at all … You take 30 trillion words of training data and you just hope for the best. The amount of design that goes into this is minimal."

LLMs are only possible because the internet has become a massive repository of text that records human behaviour, he said.

This allows AI labs to create systems that imitate human behaviour, but "if you train it to imitate human behaviour, then you're basically training it to have human-like goals … you can only imagine how disastrous it would be to have really capable systems that were pursuing those kinds of goals."

Have the risks ever kept him up at night? "Not in the sense of, I'm lying awake, terrified of the future. I'm sometimes lying awake, having ideas about how to fix things and writing them down in my notebook," he said. "I mean, I know people [who work in AI research] who are like that — who literally feel this visceral fear all day long. I guess I'm just naturally optimistic and I feel like there's things we can do and we should get on and do them."

The benefits of using AI responsibly could be enormous, he said. One way to do it safely could involve building systems that are good at one thing, rather than an AGI that can learn any human skill. AlphaFold, built by Google DeepMind, is an example. When it sees a sequence of DNA it can predict the shape of the protein that it codes for. As proteins form the machinery of life and their shapes dictate how they work, this could transform medical research.

Another safety measure could involve building controls into the computer hardware that AI systems run on. Products could be built "so they don't run anything that isn't known to be safe".

Will policymakers impose these kinds of measures? There have been signs that politicians were starting to "wake up" to the risks of a super-intelligent AI. "We've sort of got the message and we're scrambling around trying to figure out what to do. That's what it feels like right now," Russell said.

"We've got the Europeans calling for an emergency global summit. You've got China basically banning large language models. We've got the White House, calling in all the [technology industry] CEOs for an emergency meeting. I mean, it's sort of what you would imagine might happen if we really did detect an alien civilisation."

Human Compatible: AI and the Problem of Control by Stuart Russell is published by Penguin

How will AI be regulated?

In a white paper in March the government outlined its approach to regulating AI, Rhys Blakely and Ali Mitib write. The dangers it posed "could include anything from physical harm, an undermining of national security, as well as risks to mental health," the paper said.

AI was already in daily life, it added, with examples including the algorithms streaming services use to recommend TV shows, or that social media services use to feed users content.

Increasingly, AI is also expected to be used in medicine for tasks such as analysing scans.

Some experts, including Professor Russell, believe AIs have already changed society in ways that were not anticipated. He suspects social media algorithms have helped polarise the political landscape.

The government has said it does not believe in "heavy-handed" regulations, arguing they would stifle innovation and slow AI adoption. Russell is concerned that the government's position is closely aligned with that of the technology companies, and that competition between rivals such as Google and Microsoft will fuel a dangerous race to develop and release new AIs."It's one of the reasons why we need regulation," he says.

India planning campaign ‘to reclaim the Koh-i-Noor diamond’

Ross Kaniuk

India is planning to launch a diplomatic campaign to reclaim the Koh-i-Noor diamond and thousands of other treasures from Britain, it has been claimed.

Officials in Delhi are said to be preparing what would amount to the largest repatriation claim faced by the UK, on a scale that would dwarf Greece’s demands for the Elgin Marbles. It would involve the return of potentially thousands of artefacts taken to Britain during the days of empire.

It is thought that the aim is to secure the return of the Koh-i-Noor diamond, one of the Crown Jewels held in trust for the King. The reclamation may be weaved into diplomatic talks between the UK and India on matters such as trade, The Daily Telegraph reported.

Govind Mohan, secretary for the Indian ministry of culture, said that returning antiquities would form a key part of India’s policy-making. He told the newspaper: “It is of huge importance to the government. The thrust of this effort to repatriate India’s artefacts comes from the personal commitment of prime minister Narendra Modi, who has made it a major priority.”

The Archaeological Survey of India, a branch of the ministry of culture, is leading efforts to reclaim objects trafficked out of the country since it became independent. The Indian government previously insisted in 2016 it will “make all possible efforts to bring back the Koh-i-Noor.” The Ashmolean Museum in Oxford has already been approached regarding a bronze idol taken from a temple in southern India.

Diplomats in London are understood to be planning to make formal requests to institutions holding artefacts seized as spoils of war or collected by enthusiasts during colonial rule. The process is due to begin this year. Some institutions would require royal permission or parliamentary legislative change in order to go ahead. It has been claimed that charities will be approached first as they are able to repatriate objects.

The Koh-i-Noor 105-carat diamond once topped the Mughal emperors’ Peacock Throne. It was held by Indian rulers before being handed over to the East India Company, and was then given to Queen Victoria following the annexation of the Punjab.

HUGO BURNAND/ROYAL HOUSEHOLD 2023/PA



From left to right: Ralph Tollemache, Lord Oliver Cholmondeley, Nicholas Barclay, Prince George, the Marchioness of Lansdowne, the King and Queen, Annabel Elliot, the Queen’s sister, Freddy Parker Bowles, the Queen’s grandson, Arthur Elliot, the Queen’s great-nephew, and Gus and Louis Lopes, the Queen’s other grandsons

George takes a step up in new images from King’s coronation

Jack Malvern

With no etiquette guides on ways to wear the Imperial State Crown, the King had free rein on how to appear in official photographs released on Friday.

His decision seems to have been: slightly jaunty.

While far from a rakish angle, the diamond-encrusted crown is slightly off centre against the red drapery of Buckingham Palace’s throne room.

It is the only hint of informality in images designed to embody the dignity of the monarchy by presenting the King in an artfully laid out robe and surrounded by boys in uniform.

Buckingham Palace released two images of the King, the simpler of which showed him alongside the next two in line to the throne.

The image of the King, with the Prince of Wales at his right hand and Prince George at his left, was taken on the day he was crowned.

The monarch perches with his legs spread wide on one of a pair of 1902 throne chairs made for the future King George V and Queen Mary for use at the coronation of King Edward VII and also used in the background of the 1937 coronation of King George VI.

The King and Queen used the chairs at Westminster Hall to receive addresses at Parliament last year.

The King is pictured wearing the robe of estate, originally made for George VI, and holding the sovereign’s orb and sovereign’s sceptre with cross.



The King with William and George

In the other image, the King and Queen are depicted alongside their pages of honour and ladies in attendance. The Queen is pictured wearing Queen Mary’s crown and robe of estate.

Prince George is the smiliest of the children, who also include the Queen’s grandsons Freddy Parker Bowles, Gus Lopes and Louis Lopes and great-nephew Arthur Elliot. Annabel Elliot, the Queen’s sister, stands by her side. Next to the King is the Marchioness of Lansdowne. To the left stand Ralph Tollemache, Lord Oliver Cholmondeley and Nicholas Barclay.

The photographs were taken by Hugo Burnand, who also took Charles and Camilla’s wedding pictures in 2005.

Analysis

Aesthetically, I grant you, it’s a great picture, this portrait that will surely become known as the Three Kings: the monarch, his heir and the third in line swathed in their coronation finery, resplendent with colour, pageantry and drama (Robert Crampton writes).

Depictions of family groups across the generations are always powerfully symbolic, reaffirming the enduringly mystical emotive power of blood ties as they do. When you realise that the future reign of the boy on the right, the second in line to the throne, will — barring accidents — project Windsor sovereignty probably 80 years into the next century, you feel the full force of the image. It’s quite a statement: we’re here and we’re going nowhere. Committed royalists will love it. And yet I think they might be mistaken. As a republican, I think this particular photograph might serve my cause rather well.

Why? Because it will not only be people of my persuasion who feel uncomfortable at the sight of a nine-year-old boy exposed so glaringly to the public gaze in such a formal setting. It places Prince George starkly in the context of his role as a future king. The image says “this boy was born to be king” — and by the time he becomes one, maybe 50 years from now, the idea of a destiny fixed at the moment of birth is going to look seriously weird.

That notion already feels old-fashioned. By the final quarter of the 21st century, it is going to look absolutely antediluvian. More or less every development in society is tending towards more opportunity, more equality, more inclusivity. Every political party seeks, or says it seeks, to reduce the influence of inherited privilege. This image defiantly informs the British people that for as long as almost all of us now living remain alive, the job of head of state is taken, ta very much. Or rather, thanks awfully.

What happened to William and Kate wanting their kids to have as normal a childhood as possible? When I saw George in his jacket and tie at the concert last Sunday, I despaired for the lad. He was dressed more formally than his dad 30 years ago. Nothing seems to have changed, no lessons learnt.

Remember the infamous snap of David Cameron, Boris Johnson, George Osborne and pals in their born-to-rule Bullingdon club waistcoats at Oxford? It no doubt felt like a good idea at the time. A generation later it was so politically poisonous its subjects had to renounce it. The Three Kings might suffer a similar fate.

Chorus of political protest at 'bizarre' ban on Zelensky



Geraldine Scott, Alex Farber

Rishi Sunak is "disappointed" by the decision not to allow President Zelensky of Ukraine to address the Eurovision Song Contest tonight after fears that it would politicise the event, with one Labour MP calling the decision "bizarre".

No 10 said the prime minister believed that the "values and freedoms that President Zelensky and the people of Ukraine are fighting for are not political, they're fundamental".

Sunak's deputy spokesman said: "The prime minister thinks it would be fitting for President Zelensky to address the event given that we're hosting it on behalf of Ukraine."

The European Broadcasting Union (EBU), the alliance of public service media organisations that oversees the contest, with the BBC acting as this year's host, has barred Zelensky from making a video address during tonight's final to an estimated audience of 160 million people.

The move has led to strong criticism from Conservative and Labour MPs.

Boris Johnson, who as prime minister formed a close friendship with Zelensky after Russia invaded Ukraine last year, tweeted: "It would have been right to hear from President Zelensky at Eurovision. There is only one reason the contest is not in Ukraine and that is because of Putin's illegal war."

Damian Green, the Conservative MP who is acting chairman of the cross-party culture select committee, said it was a mistake by the EBU to deny the Ukrainian leader an opportunity to address the world during Saturday's final.

"This Eurovision is a unique event so it's wrong to deny President Zelensky a chance to speak," he said. "The viewers made their feelings known last year by voting for Ukraine and the rest of Europe should respect that."



President Zelensky will be unable to address Eurovision viewers via video

Kevin Brennan, the Labour MP and member of the culture select committee, said politics was at the centre of the upheaval that had affected the event. "Given that the only reason it's in Liverpool, not Ukraine, is for political reasons, it seems bizarre to suggest allowing President Zelensky to say a few words would politicise the event," he said.

Karen Bradley, the former culture secretary, said: "Given the circumstances, it seems petty to stop the head of state of the country that should be hosting but are unable to because of an illegal invasion from thanking Liverpool and the UK for stepping in to help Ukraine. Nobody can be in any doubt about the political reasons for this and to try to pretend otherwise seems an odd decision."

Claire McColgan, the director of Culture Liverpool, told Times Radio: "The fact is that we've done so much work with Ukrainians, worked very closely with the ambassador of Ukraine on the whole programme. This hasn't been a kind of tick box for just doing something with Ukraine. It would be fantastic to have a message from Zelensky in the city at this time, especially for the people from Ukraine who have come here, wishing [the event] was at home."

The EBU issued a statement late on Thursday night in which it reiterated that the decision was made "to protect the non-political nature of the Eurovision Song Contest".

It added that the call was made by its management, led by Noel Curran, the director-general, rather than its alliance of more than 100 members. Tim Davie, the director-general of the BBC, is among the EBU's executive board members.

An EBU spokesman said: "The Eurovision Song Contest is an international entertainment show and governed by strict rules and principles, which have been established since its creation. As part of these, one of the cornerstones of the contest is the non-political nature of the event.

"This principle prohibits the possibility of making political or similar statements as part of the contest. The request by Mr Zelensky to address the audience at the Eurovision Song Contest, whilst made with laudable intentions, regrettably cannot be granted as it would be against the rules of the event."

The EBU said it would ensure that the BBC, which is hosting the event on behalf of UA:PBC, the Ukrainian public-service broadcaster, would strongly feature Ukraine's music, culture and creativity throughout the contest.

Yes Minister writer says do the right thing, letters, page 28

Devotees flying the flag for Ukraine

Tom Ball Northern Correspondent
Constance Kampfner

For the thousands of Eurovision superfans in the UK, having secured a ticket is almost immaterial. The arrival of the contest on home shores may well make this the greatest week in a generation, at least for members of Organisation des Amateurs de l'Eurovision, the international fan club of which the UK chapter has 7,000 members.

And as residents of Liverpool this week have borne witness, the final is merely the culmination of a festival of Eurovision joy — from ferry rides down the Mersey estuary, thronged with hundreds of flamboyantly dressed people singing their hearts out to Katrina and the Waves, to the nightclubs of the Baltic Triangle, to the more milder, pop-up Euro Café, where members meet for coffee.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 of the UK OGAE fans have gone to Liverpool this week for the first contest held in Britain since 1998. The capacity for the event is roughly 7,000 and 3,000 seats have been allocated to Ukrainians.

Dean Asker, 52, who has been to every contest since 1995, has been in charge of the club's evening entertainment this week, including live performances from past contestants such as Conchita Wurst and Samantha Womack, who represented Britain in 1991.

"Twenty or so years ago, being a Eurovision fan wasn't the most fashionable thing in the world, whereas now it seems to be much more so," said Asker, a media manager for the Royal Shakespeare Company from Warwick.

Ewhen Chymera, a Ukrainian, has spent weeks perfecting his bicolour flag cocktail. "The yellow is Ukrainian vodka, mixed with orange, honey syrup, and vanilla liqueur. The top is a little bit of vodka mixed with blue curaçao."

As a director at the Bradford Ukrainian Club, he is pulling out all the stops to make sure that the city's recent arrivals are able to celebrate in true Slavic style.

Ukrainian craft beer, meat dishes and dumplings will be on offer, and 200 people are expected to attend.

The contest is important to Ukrainians, he said. "For many countries it is one of those rare opportunities that you get to be on the international stage and talked about on the same sort of level as Germany or the UK or France." Chymera has been helping Bradford's roughly 250 Ukrainian refugees settle in. He said this year's Eurovision was going to be "tough".

When Iuliia Gorytska visited Liverpool she was taken aback by the amount of Ukrainian merchandise on sale. She bought a blue and yellow scarf to serve as a memento of the bittersweet moment.

Gorytska fled Ukraine last spring. She helps others with their English at the Merton Ukraine Refugee Hub in southwest London, where she is organising a viewing party, funded by the National Lottery. "People after a year of war are quite exhausted emotionally," she said. "So I think moral support is now even more important than it was in the beginning, because people's resources are low."

"My dream would be for Ukraine to win again and host Eurovision next year in Kyiv — that would be kind of miraculous. It would be amazing to welcome people from Britain who organised this event for us this year to Kyiv."

A great excuse to get together, leading article, page 29

I knew she was a class act, says UK hopeful's teacher

One of Mae Muller's most dedicated fans will be watching the Eurovision Song Contest final and trying to suppress the temptation to refer to her by her real name, or perhaps remind her to hand in her homework (Alex O'Connell writes).

Muller, 25, is representing the UK and while performing in Liverpool has kept up with Stella James, her old form teacher at Acland Burghley, a mixed comprehensive secondary school in Tufnell Park, northwest London. The singer was a pupil there between the ages of 11 and 16.

"We all know her as 'Holly', her real name, and now she's Mae [her middle name]," said James, a languages teacher who taught Muller French. She will join the star's family and friends in a local venue in Kentish Town to watch the show on television. Muller, who born three months after Katrina and the Waves won the song contest for the UK in 1997, was chosen by Lana Del Rey's management Tap Music to represent Britain. She will be performing her hit, *I Wrote a Song*, which made the UK Top 40 when it was released in March.

She is said to have loved her time at Acland Burghley, which has the Orchestra for the Age of Enlightenment as musicians in residence at present and whose past pupils include the singers Ms Dynamite and Eddy Grant. Last month she returned to the Brutalist building for a special assembly. "This is like the scariest thing I've ever done," she told the pupils.

Addressing students in year nine, Muller discussed her music, the pressures of social media and — one for James — the importance of learning foreign languages.

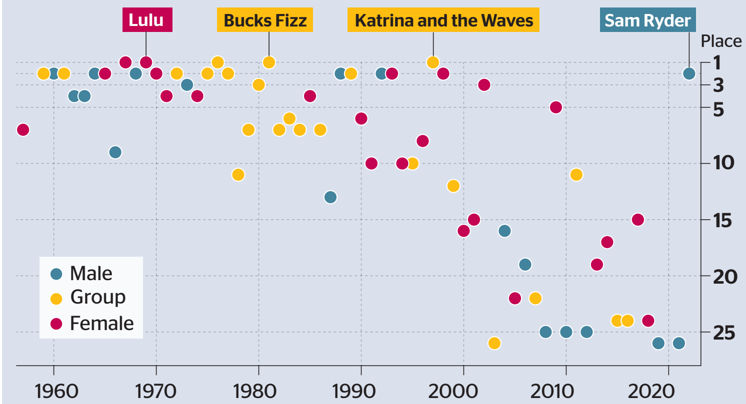
"I remember being in year nine

MARTIN MEISSNER/AP



A fairer chance

While UK acts have generally been going downhill, female performers tend to rank higher on average than male ones



Can we win it? What 67 years of data tells us

Women tend to fare better than men, it's not just about geopolitics … and the key is key, **Matilda Davies** finds

Sam Ryder ended 25 years of Eurovision embarrassment for the UK last year by securing second place for the first time since Katrina and the Waves won in 1997. This year the relatively unknown Mae Muller will take the stage in Liverpool to try to revive our Eurovision glory. Can she do it? Sixty-seven years of data may provide the answer.

IT'S A WOMAN'S WORLD

Since the first Eurovision Song Contest in 1956, women have dominated. In every decade, female solo acts have won at least half of the competitions. This is good news for Muller, 25. She is the first female solo act the UK has put forward since 2018. The UK has won the contest five times, twice with female solo acts, three times with groups and never with a male solo singer. Ben Mawson, co-founder of the music publishing company TaP Music, which works with the BBC to choose the UK entrant, told The Times: "We were keen not to have a male. This is more girl power. It's a younger-leaning song."

SING A SAFE SONG

Muller's *I Wrote a Song* may have girl power behind it, but it's far from a safe choice. Most winning Eurovision songs are in the key of D — accounting for almost a fifth of winners. Household names such as Abba and Bucks Fizz opted for this key and it paid off. Muller, however, has written her entry in A minor. Five previous winners have made it to the top in A minor — most recently the Netherlands' Duncan Lawrence in 2019. It isn't a safe choice.

HOME ADVANTAGE?

Muller has the opposite of a home team advantage. In fact, it's rare for the host country to win — this has happened only six times since Eurovision began. It occurred most recently in 1993 and 1994, during Ireland's three-win streak. That said, the 19 years since Ireland's last win at home is the longest stint without a home team victory. Perhaps it is overdue.

BIG FIVE ARE NOT TOP FIVE

The simple fact that Muller is competing for the UK puts her on the back foot. We last won in 1997, when Katrina and the Waves were triumphant with *Love Shine a Light*. Since then we've finished last five times and twice received nil points. The UK is one of the Big Five — the others are Germany, France, Spain and Italy — that give most funding to the European Broadcasting Union and receive an automatic place in the final. However, the five countries have won only once in each decade since the early 1980s. With Italy's Måneskin getting gold in 2021, another Big Five win does not look likely soon.

SPLIT THE VOTE

The poor performance of the western European nations, and the UK especially, is often attributed to voting blocs. While there is some truth to this claim, it's not so straightforward. Eastern European nations have undeniably favoured other eastern European nations, but so did Scandinavian countries and certain countries in western Europe. Paul Jordan, who dubs himself Dr Eurovision after writing a PhD on the geopolitics of the contest, said there was a political element — but it's not all political. He believes culture often trumps politics in Eurovision: "They know each other's music. Often they sing in their native tongue."

POPULARITY CONTEST

Familiarity might have had a hand in Ryder's achievement last year. Even before the competition began, he had a fanbase with global reach. The *Space Man* singer rose to fame on TikTok, with 12.4 million followers as of the week after he was chosen. Muller, meanwhile, had 573,000 followers and her fanbase is far more UK-centric. Streams of her song lag behind. If the contest were based on song popularity alone, Sweden would win.

WILL MULLER CORNER MARKET?

You can never predict how a Eurovision final will go — whether it's the UK's 2005 entry Javine coming bottom three after a wardrobe malfunction or the Swedish singer Carola Häggkvist falling off the stage in 2013. Even without slip-ups, Muller faces tough odds. James Newman's 2021 Eurovision song *Embers* might have brought nil points for the UK but its lyrics offered hope: "There's still a chance for us."

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and I actually remember really enjoying it," Muller said. "I remember the great thing about going to this school is I feel like it's quite creative and if you've got that creative thing, you're not told to suppress that, which was really important.

"I was quite annoying and tried to perform at any given opportunity. At every assembly, I'd be like, 'let me sing!' and I was always allowed.

"I guess the main thing that I would like to say to everyone is: I didn't have it all figured out for a while … for a few years I worked in a pub, I worked in retail, and I was just trying to figure it out."

James, who also taught Muller's older brother, Sam, remembers that the Eurovision hopeful chose to study art over music. "She did GCSE art and she sang a lot in assemblies and was keen to stand up and perform. I always remember her as a very fun student. She was a sociable, happy girl, very personable and very sweet and kind to me. She was very friendly with everyone in the class," James said.

"You think back at the kids in the past and you think, 'what will happen to them?' I was always confident that she would find her thing.

"In assembly last week she was very positive. She was very natural with us. She answered all their questions spontaneously. She emphasised that you don't have to know what you want in life at their age. You will figure it out in the end. She said, 'try your hardest'. She said she enjoyed the freedom of expression in the school."

Although Muller had an obvious aptitude for singing, James thought that music would remain a sideline rather than a profession.

"I didn't think she was going to be a singer. I thought she would perform as a hobby."

James recalls meeting Muller at a restaurant next to the school a few years ago. "She told me she was supporting Little Mix. I was thrilled," she said.

Muller, who was influenced by Lily Allen and Amy Winehouse, starred in the video for Mika's hit song *Grace Kelly* aged nine. "The Mullers are a creative family and a very nice down-to-earth family," said James.

Muller, who pulled pints in the Abbey Tavern in Kentish Town, remains loyal to her neighbourhood. Her local greasy spoon, Pedro's Café, a favourite of Kentish Town local Sir Keir Starmer, features in the music video for her song *Anticlimax*.



Mae Muller will represent the United Kingdom tonight. She appeared in the video for Grace Kelly by Mika in 2007

News

Lawyer 'celebrated jailing of innocent and pregnant postmistress'

Tom Witherow

A senior Post Office lawyer celebrated putting a pregnant woman in prison, telling executives they had "destroyed the attack on the Horizon system", an inquiry has heard.

Seema Misra, a postmistress in Surrey caught up in the scandal, said she would have killed herself when she was jailed for 15 months in 2010, for theft and false accounting, were it not for her unborn child. The married mother collapsed in the dock as the judge read her sentence. The £74,600 shortfall was caused by the faulty IT system.

Yesterday the public inquiry into the scandal was shown an email from the Post Office's senior criminal lawyer, Jarnail Singh, to a series of executives, celebrating the conviction.

They were told the case had been "an unprecedented attack on the Horizon system", adding: "Through the hard work of everyone … we were able to destroy to the criminal standard of proof every suggestion made by the defence."

The email praised the Post Office barrister, its investigation officer and the expert Gareth Jenkins, who in the past two years has been interviewed under caution by police as part of a perjury investigation, relating to evidence given in the Misra trial.

Campaigners said the email showed the lengths to which the Post Office was prepared to go to defend the system, which a judge ruled was riddled with bugs in a landmark High Court judgment in December 2019.

Last night Misra broke down in response to the email and repeated her demand for criminal action. "They didn't realise they were playing with my life, a mum's life, a wife's life. Even someone with a heart of steel wouldn't do that," she told The Times. "They cannot be human, and yet they kept doing it. The bosses are still free, they have their families, while I was in prison."

She was one of more than 700 postmasters wrongly prosecuted for fraud, theft and false accounting. Just four of more than 80 postmasters to overturn their convictions in the appeal courts have received full compensation.

At Guildford crown court in 2010, prosecutors accused Misra of "cooking the books." It was not until 2021 that her conviction was overturned.

GUY BELL/ALAMY



Trophy wife A 1977 shot of the Oscar winner Faye Dunaway taken in Hollywood by her future husband Terry O'Neill is among a collection on sale in London next week

Met's chief denies being pressured to make arrests

Peter Chappell

The head of the Metropolitan Police has denied that the force was put under political pressure after it used new powers to arrest protesters at the coronation.

In a letter to Sadiq Khan, the mayor of London, Sir Mark Rowley defended the arrests of six members of the anti-monarchist Republic campaign group who were suspected of carrying "lock-on devices". The six were released without charge after spending up to 16 hours in police custody.

Asked by the mayor whether the law was so broadly drawn that it could interfere with peaceful protest, the Met commissioner said that "officers are required to follow the law as established by parliament". He added: "It is not the role of the police to act on the basis of political perceptions of the law — we work with it as enacted."

The Public Order Act 2023, which received royal assent four days before the coronation, has been criticised for potentially leading to the curtailment of the right to freedom of expression.

Critics say that the legislation was rushed through parliament on the back of protests by environmental groups such as Just Stop Oil, whose members have attached themselves to buildings as part of their campaigning.

Rowley said that if officers had not made arrests in the morning before the coronation procession "there would now be much more serious questions to answer". He wrote: "We found people in possession of possible lock-on devices and people, that appeared to be purporting to be stewards of the event, in possession of plastic bottles containing white paint." They were later released as "we do not judge that we will be able to prove criminal intent beyond all reasonable doubt", he said.

"While it is unfortunate that the six people affected by this were unable to join the hundreds of peaceful protesters, I support the officers' actions."

Graham Smith, the leader of Republic, who was one of the six people arrested, accused the Met of "simply lying when they say officers were not aware that we had engaged with the police". Smith said he had been told the Met's protest liaison officers would brief their superiors and that officers would be aware of the protests. Rowley's letter states that it was "not clear" at the time of arrests that Republic had been in contact with liaison officers.

"This was a deliberate and concerted effort to disrupt and diminish a lawful protest, a protest they all knew full well was planned and lawful," said Smith

The commissioner wrote to the mayor after Khan requested he answer urgent questions following the event.

My time in the Met, Magazine

Wallace will defy his generals' calls to reverse military's cuts

George Grylls Defence Correspondent

Ben Wallace, the defence secretary, will resist pressure from generals and push ahead with cuts to the army as part of an overhaul of the armed forces.

Next month the Ministry of Defence will publish its defence command paper, which sets out the government's long-term ambitions for the military. Under the plans the army will be rebalanced to reduce the number of infantry in favour of more artillery.

In 2021 Wallace announced plans to reduce the number of tanks from 227 to 148 and the number of troops to 73,000, the fewest since the Napoleonic era. The decision was made before the Russian invasion of Ukraine, however, and General Sir Patrick Sanders, chief of the general staff, has said that pursuing the cuts now would be "perverse".

With Nato allies including Poland, Germany and Finland increasing spending on their land armies, ministers believe that Britain is not under significant pressure to change course and can modernise the armed forces with investments elsewhere. The ministry is facing a squeeze on its budget because the Treasury awarded it a £5 billion increase in spending over the next two years, about half of what was requested to manage inflation. Of that, £3 billion has been set aside for a nuclear submarine programme, and the remaining £2 billion will be used to replenish stocks of weapons given to Ukraine.

"The defence secretary has directed that the army is to be protected from further reductions and it is for the other services to manage their finances," a defence source said.

Senior figures in the ministry believe the war in Ukraine has exposed the vulnerability of tanks to shoulder-launched weapons such as Nlaws and Javelins, justifying the original decision in 2021 to upgrade only 148 Challenger 2s to Challenger 3s.

"We have too much infantry — a legacy of the counter-insurgency wars in Afghanistan and Iraq," a Whitehall source said. "We need more artillery. The jury is out on whether you need main battle tanks."

There are 75,710 troops in the army and Wallace has admitted that it is unable to deploy a war-fighting division. In a meeting last autumn, the US commander of Nato forces in Europe said the British army was no longer regarded as a tier-one fighting force.

Senior figures have argued that the planned cuts to the number of tanks and troops would be a mistake. "The main lesson from Ukraine is you need mass," one army source said. "We don't have enough infantry and we don't have enough artillery." The source also said it was naive to think that the war justified the decision to cut tanks and suggested poor Russian tactics explained why the Kremlin had lost more than half of its operational fleet in Ukraine. "If you're being hit by Nlaws in an urban environment, your tank is probably in the wrong place," the source said.

As part of the military overhaul the army is expected to field more assault groups armed with drones, reflecting the important role played by artillery spotters in Ukraine.

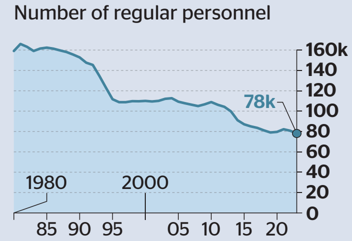
The plans are a continuation of tactics from 2021, when the army established the Rangers, only the third regiment created since the Second World War. Deployed in small units before the main battlegroup, they can pinpoint enemy targets and relay information to drones for further reconnaissance or to artillery for a strike.

The ministry said: "Through our updated defence command paper, we will set out defence's vision and prioritise our activities to ensure the UK remains ready to deter adversaries.

"We will not be drawn on speculation ahead of publication."

You and whose army?

Number of regular personnel



Data is year ending April. 2023 figures as of January 1.
Source: Ministry of Defence

We have no life, mother of machete victim says

Jermaine Cools, 14, was the youngest boy to die in a record year for teen murders in London, **Fiona Hamilton** writes

Jermaine Cools's bedroom has not been touched since the last time he left the house, having told his mother that "I'll see you later" as she left for work.

There are many poignant reminders of a youth cut cruelly short: the 14-year-old's football trophy on the shelf, his beloved music system where he sat mixing sounds, pictures of his friends.

All that potential was stolen away on November 18, 2021, when Jermaine was brutally murdered by a machete-wielding teenager two years his senior.

"We don't really have a life any more," Jermaine's mother, Lorraine Dudek, says. "There's days where the pain overrides everything and you just can't really function. You just stop living.

"You can't hide from it. And when it hits you, this realisation that you're not going to see Jermaine again, you just crumble. There's no way out."

Jermaine was the fourth boy murdered in Croydon, south London, in 2021. He was the capital's youngest fatal knife crime victim and one of a record 30 teenage homicides that year.

Postcode wars, gang violence and "beefs" over drug dealing are often blamed for the hostilities that have led to the murders of 150 teenagers in London since 2016. But, as the Old Bailey was told this week when his killer was handed a life sentence, Jermaine had no part in any of that.

Dudek, 36, says: "Jermaine didn't have a criminal record. He wasn't known to the police, he wasn't known to social services, he wasn't known to anybody. He was a normal child. We live in an area of Croydon where there are many gangs, and many people that are involved with gangs. But that had no effect on him. He wasn't in a gang."

Jermaine had been with his stepbrother outside a chicken shop in the town at about 6.30pm when there was an unprovoked attack by another boy and a scuffle broke out. As Jermaine was knocked over he was attacked by Marques Walker, then 16 and on bail for possessing a huge "zombie"-style knife.

CCTV showed Walker pulling a machete from his jacket and lunging at Jermaine, who was unarmed and rolling around the ground failing to avoid the blows. He was stabbed seven times in the abdomen, chest and shoulder in what prosecutors described as a "senseless attack of extreme ferocity". He was pronounced dead in hospital two hours later. Dudek is incredulous as she explains that Walker was mixed up in gangs and county lines drug dealing and had been caught with three knives in the two years before the murder. Only six weeks before he attacked Jermaine, a youth court had granted him bail over possession of a 20in zombie knife. Walker told detectives he would not leave the house without a knife "because it's like walking to his death".

"The follow-up is the problem, isn't it?" Dudek says. "It's not the stop and search because they've done that part, they've removed the weapon. But where was the follow-up? How can you have had three knife offences and been involved in county lines. Why was there no follow-up? Why was this boy walking around armed again?

"He's basically told the police that he will always walk around with a knife. Was that not a massive indicator that there's no way that you're going to reform someone with that mentality?"

Dudek wants tougher penalties for knife carriers, and automatic custody so they are not on the streets.

She warns there is an insidious gang culture that must be addressed, including drill music videos that glorify violence. "There's such a mentality here with the young population where it's something normal, it's OK. It's acceptable. The drill nonsense these boys produce after doing these crimes. There's so many youths that feel that they support the music, support the gun. They think it's something to aspire to."

Walker showed no remorse. At Feltham Young Offender Institution, where he was part of an attack that nearly killed a boy, he wrote a rap about Jermaine including the words: "Even if that youth was a civilian I would still rewind and chef up [stab] his back."

Such cruelty is in stark contrast to the images of Jermaine that adorn Dudek's home. He wraps his arm around family and friends, smiles softly at the camera. There are shrines dotted around the house. An urn in the living room contains his ashes, next to it a necklace set on paper that says: "The love between mother and son is forever."

Dudek and her partner, Julius Cools, have seen many comments online containing a presumption that their son was caught up in gangs. It angers her, and for the first time her voice slightly breaks: "There is no justification for murder, it doesn't matter whether it's a gang member or not. But it's even worse when it's an innocent person that's just going about their daily life."

Dudek wants to speak out to raise awareness, to try to stop another family having to bear such senseless tragedy.

In January Walker, of Bromley, southeast London, admitted murder, possession of a knife and causing grievous bodily harm. He was named when a judge lifted an anonymity order after a legal challenge led by The Times, and was sentenced to life imprisonment with a minimum 19 years.

Dudek's sentence is also one of life. She hangs on to the memories of her son's last morning. When it was time for her to go to work, Jermaine walked her to the door as always. "And he said, 'I'll see you later, Mum.' And that was it, I never saw him again after that."







Jermaine Cools, 14, with his mother, Lorraine Dudek. The boy, who was not involved in gangs, was stabbed to death by Marques Walker, then 16, in an unprovoked attack in Croydon town centre in 2021. Walker, right, had been on bail for possessing a 20in "zombie" knife at the time

Teenager plotted jihadist attack on soldiers from his bedroom

David Woode Crime Correspondent
David Brown

During the coronavirus lockdowns, most teenagers found refuge in online memes and chats with friends.

Matthew King, 19, went down a much darker internet rabbit hole with a "jihadi love" he met online. The teenager's salvation was his mother, who alerted the authorities before he could carry out any atrocity. Within five months King had gone from searching for knives online to plotting with the teenage girlfriend he had never met to carry out an Islamist terrorist attack on police officers and members of the military, the Old Bailey was told yesterday.

King appears to have been radicalised after visiting sinister online forums that spread extremist ideas and applauded atrocities by terrorist groups including Islamic State.

King, who could be jailed for life, had depraved online chats with the girl, who encouraged him to become a "martyr" as they discussed their plans to rape, poison, torture and murder soldiers. They hoped to marry and join Isis in Syria. King told her: "My goal is to die on the battlefield." The girl, from east London, told him: "I don't wanna look at other men". He replied: "I guess jihadi love is powerful." He also said: "I just want to kill people." In a Snapchat message King told her: "I just want to get my hands on an American marine … or a British marine."



Matthew King, 19, discussed joining Isis with a girl he had met online

King has pleaded guilty to preparing terrorist acts.

He grew up in Wickford, Essex and when he started secondary school began dabbling in drugs. He was expelled and spent time at a pupil referral unit, leaving without qualifications. King converted to Islam around the age of 17 but, when his views became more extreme, his mother contacted the government's anti-extremism hotline, Prevent, which led to his arrest.

In his bedroom police found a balaclava and a black and white jihadist flag. He had also scoped out police stations, an army barracks, a magistrates' court and railway stations as potential targets.

The case was adjourned for sentencing later this month.

Proud to be bottom of the list. Again.

For the 11th year in a row, Sky TV has received the lowest number of complaints.

Complaints per 100,000 customers measured by Ofcom in their latest Telecoms & Pay TV complaints report.

	Pay TV	Broadband
Virgin Media	8	14
BT	7	10
Talk Talk	3	18
Plusnet	-	10
Vodafone	-	19
EE	-	7
sky	1	5

We're happy because you're happy.

sky

Sky received the fewest complaints per 100,000 customers measured by Ofcom for Pay TV and fixed line broadband in the latest Telecoms and Pay TV Complaints Reports (Q3 report published 26/01/2023 and Q4 report published 27/04/23). Also included for broadband were NOW and Shell Energy (10 and 27 complaints respectively in latest report). For previous Telecoms and Pay TV Complaints Reports please visit ofcom.org.uk/phones-telecoms-and-internet/advice-for-consumers/telecoms-and-pay-tv-complaints.



TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER MARC ASPLAND



Eton v Harrow still not out at home of cricket

It is the historic cricket fixture that just won't disappear (Elizabeth Ammon writes). Despite a decision from MCC's executive last year that the annual Eton v Harrow match should no longer take place at Lord's but ought to make way for a competition open to all schools, it has returned, after a revolt, to the home of cricket.

On Friday, the match between the public schools, which dates from 1805, drew a crowd of about 800 — made up mostly of pupils.

As Harrow, batting first, scored a decent 273-6 in 55 overs, the chants of "no noise from the strawberries" (Harrovians believe the Etonians' uniform makes them look like the summer fruit) were met with the reply of "20 prime ministers" and "we've had more prime ministers than you".

Attempts had been made by both schools to curb some of the worst behaviour that has increased criticism of the match. The boys were separated, with the Etonians in the lower Mound stand and the Harrovians in the upper Tavern. Both sets were warned their behaviour was being monitored.

The match was also held earlier than in previous years, when, with many pupils having already left school, threats of expulsion or other sanctions were rendered meaningless.

The announcement last year that the match would not be hosted by Lord's led to a backlash from a segment of MCC's 18,000-strong membership who accused the committee of a lack of due process.

After threats of a confidence vote MCC's committee agreed to consult and then put the matter to a vote. The consultation revealed the membership was split between those who wanted to keep the match and those who either did not want it or did not care either way, and a vote was considered too risky.

Traditionalists rejected a compromise for Eton v Harrow to play every other year, with an all-schools competition in the interim, and a stay of execution was granted, until at least 2027. "It was the right thing to do … for the time being," Archie Berens, of the historic fixtures group, said. The MCC is to press ahead with its "Road to Lord's" all-school competition. It will begin next year and sit in the calendar along with Eton v Harrow. For now, the blazers, stripey ties and chanting will continue.



Eton's pupils celebrate at Lord's. In 1937, local boys looked on with amusement at the sight of Harrow pupils

Locals tight-lipped after vigilante fills in Cornwall's most perilous pothole

Will Humphries
Southwest Correspondent

A phantom filler has struck in the town of Lostwithiel after becoming fed up that the "biggest pothole in Cornwall" had not been fixed, even though the council closed the road for more than a month.

Highway officials are now calling for anyone with information about the identity of the vigilante repairer to contact them.

The main route between Lostwithiel and Bodmin was closed by the council at the beginning of last month after residents complained for months about a 40cm deep pothole, measuring 2.5m by 3.2m. Last Sunday someone filled it with concrete and reopened the road. Cornish Highways has since closed it again and says the hole will not be fully fixed until next month at the earliest, because of a backlog of potholes.

Geoff Barrett, 73, a retired journalist who lives locally, spotted someone with a pick-up truck parked by the closed road on Sunday afternoon. Four hours later the road was open. "It did surprise me that someone from the council would be working on a bank holiday weekend," he said. "I didn't realise it was someone taking things into their own hands."

Kay Bevan, 78, who lives near the pothole, said her neighbours appeared to know who was responsible "but everyone is feigning ignorance". She added: "Because it's a B road it's not a high priority for the council, but it's a major road for locals."

Colin Martin, the Liberal Democrat councillor for the town, said the pothole filler represented the "shared frustration" of drivers across the country with the state of the crumbling road network.

Rishi Sunak, the prime minister, promised a clampdown on potholes at the launch of the Conservative local election campaign last month, and posed for photographs on a crumbling road in Darlington.

Martin said Cornwall had a good record of road maintenance until the Conservatives won control of the council two years ago and cut spending.

"Previously if I reported a pothole, within 24 hours the green paint would be painted around it and it would be filled in by the next day," he said. "We are now at the stage where green paint appears within 24 hours but the pothole stays there for weeks on end." Cornwall Highways said the work carried out on the road was not by one of its team.

A manager wrote: "If information regarding who carried out the works becomes known in the community, I would be grateful if details could be shared.

"We have a significant backlog of pothole defects across the network and our resource is allocated to this as a priority over other planned works.The work at Tanhouse Road will be scheduled when the situation eases."

Residents across the country have been taking action to draw attention to their deteriorating roads. Villagers fed up with a "nightmare" pothole in Blythe Bridge, Staffordshire, recently added rubber ducks to the crater after it flooded in rainfall.

A farmer in Devon erected a sign last month warning motorists: "Potholes ahead. Remove dentures. Fasten bra straps."



The road, which leads to Bodmin, has been closed for more than a month

Manslaughter inquiry for Met Police officers

Fiona Hamilton Crime Editor

Two Metropolitan Police officers are under criminal investigation over the death of a man who fell from the balcony of a flat after being tasered.

The Independent Office for Police Conduct has announced that both officers are being investigated for gross negligence manslaughter. One is also being investigated for unlawful act manslaughter.

The man, who fell from the fifth floor of a building in Peckham, southeast London, last month, has not been formally identified despite inquiries.

The watchdog said that Met officers were sent to the flat shortly before midnight on April 11 after a report of a man shouting on the balcony. They left but returned at 2am, when there was a report that he was making threats to jump, and the officers then forced entry to the flat. Two of them remained and the evidence indicates "that an officer discharged their Taser shortly before the man fell". The watchdog said: "The man fell five floors to the ground and was transported to hospital with critical injuries. He sadly died later that day."

There are two types of manslaughter. Gross negligence involves a failure in duty of care, and unlawful act is an action recognised as being dangerous but lacking the intent of murder.

The watchdog said the two officers had been served with gross misconduct notices for potentially breaching police standards, adding: "This does not necessarily mean that criminal charges or disciplinary proceedings will follow."

It has questioned why, during the post-incident procedure, it took a Met officer five or six hours to disclose that a Taser had been used.

Amanda Rowe, the watchdog's operations director, said: "We recognise that the circumstances surrounding the man's death have, understandably, caused concern within the community." The Met has been contacted for comment.

Best Places to Live gets spot on TV

Beautiful surroundings, friendly neighbours, a busy high street and good schools all make somewhere a great place to call home.

The Sunday Times's definitive guide to which places in Britain cut the mustard is coming to screens as a Channel 5 special, hosted by Fern Britton.

The presenter will be joined by Ore Oduba and Sunetra Sarker, who will count down the top ten best places to live in Britain using The Sunday Times's key metrics for help.

The annual list highlights the most desirable and attractive locations across Britain, with criteria including affordability, quality of schools and transport links and connectivity speed.

The show's presenters have travelled to ten locations across the UK, where they chat to locals, get their hands dirty and experience what life is like.

This year's best place to live was the village of Wadhurst in East Sussex.

Helen Davies, editor of The Sunday Times Best Places to Live 2023, said: "Over the past decade, The Sunday Times has built up Best Places to Live to become the definitive guide celebrating the very best of Britain's towns, villages and cities — and not just old favourites, but highlighting buzzing communities across the country.

"It's fantastic to see it come alive as a television show."

Britton said: "One of the great things about my job is the different people I get to meet, so travelling up and down the country with Ore and Sunetra to some of its most idyllic spots has been a fantastic experience."

The Sunday Times Best Places to Live 2023 is on Channel 5 at 5.35pm tomorrow.

HP printers block rivals' ink cartridges

Kieran Gair

Hewlett-Packard (HP) has been flooded with complaints after it disabled the printers of thousands of customers who had tried to use cheaper ink cartridges from rival suppliers.

Customers have been blocked from using non-HP ink cartridges in their printers after the American IT company issued a "firmware" update as part of its stringent "dynamic security" policy. Customers' devices were remotely updated and their printers will not work unless they are fitted with approved ink cartridges that are fitted with "new or reused HP chips".

HP ink cartridges can cost more than double those produced by third parties. If a customer tries to use a non-HP ink cartridge, the printer will refuse to print. The company said: "Third-party cartridges that use non-HP chips or circuitry can pose risks to the hardware performance, print quality and security."

Following the introduction of its "dynamic security" measures in 2016, HP has paid millions in compensation to customers in America, Australia and Europe.

The company offered to compensate Australian customers in 2018 after it failed to disclose the impact of the software update on their printers.

A class action case was settled in the US in December. Last year the company also paid more than £1 million to consumers in Belgium, Italy, Spain and Portugal who had bought printers not knowing that they were equipped with the cartridge-blocking feature.

A spokesman for HP said printers using "dynamic security" were labelled as such on packaging, technical materials and online. Only some of its printers were equipped with the measures, it said, although it did not specify which ones. According to its website, all HP standard printers will block cartridges using a non-HP chip or circuitry.

The spokesman added that some third-party cartridges reused the HP chip or electronic circuitry and those that did would function as normal. HP printers used to display a warning when a "third-party" ink cartridge was inserted but printers will now simply refuse to print documents altogether.

Some customers could choose to disable HP's cartridge-blocking feature in the printer's settings, HP said, but it depended on the printer model.

An article published by the consumer website Which? seven months ago said Canon had acknowledged that some companies made ink cartridges that were compatible with its printers, but would go no further than that.

Epson said that it did "not prevent the use of third-party ink cartridges" at purchase of the hardware or through "firmware updates".

Brother recommended using its own ink but confirmed all its printers accepted third-party versions.

JOANNE COLLINS-ANDERSON



Dark skies A "king of clouds" lurks above Louth in Lincolnshire during a storm. Cumulonimbus clouds can extend through the entire height of the troposphere

Naked truth: nudity boosts self-esteem

Tom Whipple Science Editor

Children who grew up around nudity are more comfortable with their bodies and themselves as adults, a study of more than 400 British men and women has found.

The effect was not big but, according to Professor Keon West of Goldsmiths University, the key result was that the study found no evidence that experiencing nudity as a child was harmful.

His study was part-funded by British Naturism and published in the peer-reviewed journal Children & Society. The participants were asked about their experiences of nudity growing up. The raw data, available online, showed that fewer than a fifth had ever been in a formal naturism environment with their parents. About half claimed to have never seen their parents naked.

Then the participants were asked about their views towards their body and general self-esteem. People who were more exposed to nudity as children generally had slightly higher self-esteem and a more positive body image as adults. There was no evidence their mental health was negatively affected.

However, West added, this was a peculiarly British and American issue. "In other countries the assumption is that children will go with their parents to the sauna or a beach nude. There are other countries where this is just not even an interesting question."



Academic pulls book in row over ‘anti-trans fascism’

Tom Witherow, Anvee Bhutani

An academic has withdrawn her forthcoming book from Oxford University Press and accused the publisher of helping to launder “genocidal fascism” against trans people as apolitical philosophies.

The publisher defended its right to publish works on “a wide variety of perspectives and viewpoints” after Eugenia Zuroski, professor of English and cultural studies at McMaster University in Canada, attacked it and withdrew her book on 18th-century humour.

In a blog post, she claimed the decision by the OUP to publish a second book by Holly Lawford-Smith, a gender-critical feminist from Australia, had contributed to a genocidal agenda, and that the publisher was helping to launder “transphobia”.

Zuroski claimed that the OUP was publishing “hateful rhetoric while waves of anti-trans legislation are being drafted and passed in both the US and the UK, making life increasingly unlivable for trans people day by day”.

She wrote: “I cannot stomach the thought of allowing my own labours to feed a press willing to lend its reputation to ‘gender critical’ fascism.” She also pointed to research by the US-based Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention, which claimed the gender-critical movement “advanced a genocidal agenda through tactics that include laundering fascist ideas as apolitical ‘philosophies’ ”, adding: “OUP’s publication of this kind of material … directly contributes to this agenda by granting it scholarly credibility.”

Lawford-Smith, an associate professor in political philosophy at Melbourne University, hit back, describing Zuroski’s comments as the “familiar sort of ludicrous hyperbole coming from trans activists”. She said: “The idea that feminism about females could be fairly characterised as either genocidal or fascist is just absurd.”

The row started last year when the OUP published Lawford-Smith’s first book, *Gender-Critical Feminism*, which sought to “defend gender-critical feminism, the proponents of which believe biological sex should be prized above gender identity, and therefore trans women are not women. The publication led to 800 authors writing an open letter to express profound disappointment in the OUP.

They claimed that the author had previously described trangender women as men, dismissed the transgender population as “fashionable” and supported conversion therapy. The title of her book, the letter said, was an anti-trans dog whistle that was designed to sound academic.



Eugenia Zuroski, left, and Holly Lawford-Smith

Lawford-Smith denied the claims, but said that as a feminist she opposed trans women having women’s rights.

The OUP responded to the open letter, saying that Lawford-Smith’s book offered a serious and rigorous academic representation of this school of feminist thought.

It was news that a second book, *Sex Matters: Essays in Gender-Critical Philosophy*, would be published that led Zuroski to withdraw her forthcoming title, *A Funny Thing: the Undisciplined Eighteenth Century*. She said the boycott was “very necessary”.

TMS

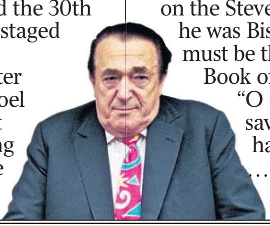
diary@thetimes.co.uk | @timesdiary

Strangest of the strange

The veteran journalist Andy McSmith has written his memoirs, called *Strange People I Have Known*. One of the strangest was Robert Maxwell, the newspaper magnate, for whom he briefly worked as a press officer. On his first day, Maxwell said he would introduce McSmith to everyone in the office. This involved the owner pointing at people, demanding their name and then repeating it. Finally, he found someone he knew. “This is Ian Maxwell,” he said when they met his son. Then they got in the lift and he saw another familiar face. “This is Ian Maxwell,” said Cap’n Bob, below. Without thinking, McSmith heard himself saying: “No, it’s Kevin.” There was then a painful silence as the boss realised he’d been publicly corrected and his younger son considered the humiliation of an employee reminding his father who he was. “We have got through a lot of press officers,” Maxwell’s secretary helpfully said. McSmith would be the 18th.

Later in his career, McSmith went to The Observer, where the political columnist Alan Watkins was famous for his creative expenses. Finally the managing editor plucked up the courage to query one that seemed dodgy. He had taken a politician for lunch but submitted a receipt that showed one starter, one main course and a huge amount of wine. Watkins sent back a four-word explanation: “He ate, I drank.”

BETTING ON AN IRISH WINNER
It’s Eurovision time and the 30th anniversary of it being staged in an Irish town with a population of 1,500. After Ireland won in 1992, Noel Duggan offered to host the next one for nothing at his equestrian centre in Co Cork. To much surprise, they agreed. The BBC’s Nicholas Witchell visited and sniffily referred to Ireland holding an international cultural event in a cowshed. “It’s a horse shed,” Duggan replied, then finished him off by observing that unlike our chaotic Grand National, which had been declared void the month before, “this will start on time, end on time and there’ll be a winner”.



ANTARCTIC WARDROBE
Packing can be a struggle for a fashion designer. Amanda Wakeley and her husband took a trip of a lifetime last year to go mountaineering in Antarctica. She tells the podcast *My Time Capsule* she packed meticulously — ice axes, crampons, Kendal Mint Cake and all that — but her husband felt that half of her luggage could be ditched. “It’s an expedition not a holiday,” he told her. Wakeley concedes he had a point: “There was an excess of cashmere.”

A final reflection on the coronation comes from Mark Vernon in The Idler, who rebuffs those who found it a load of fancy-dress twaddle with a story about the Nobel prize-winning physicist Niels Bohr, who nailed a horseshoe to the door of his study. “It brings luck,” he told his students. “Surely you don’t believe that,” they exclaimed, to which he wisely replied: “You don’t have to believe in things for them to work.”

BISHOPS ON THE RUN
Justin Welby is not the first Archbishop of Canterbury to be caught driving too fast. At the memorial service for Robert Runcie in 2000, the Bishop of London remarked that Runcie “had a competitive streak, which came out in his convictions for speeding on the Stevenage by-pass while he was Bishop of St Albans”. It must be that injunction in the Book of Common Prayer: “O God, make speed to save us; O Lord, make haste to help us.”

PATRICK KIDD




Others try to copy our format.
Only Dyson has all this cleaning intelligence.
Illumination mixed-signal matrix
Controls current to power the vacuum's angled beam. Detecting the particles you can't normally see – so you don't miss anything.[2]
Piezo processor
Samples the voltage output from the sensor one million times a second to size and count particles in real time. Suction power increases as more particles are identified.[3]
LCD digital display semiconductor
Collates data gathered by the machine, displaying size and quantity of dust particles detected on an LCD screen. Giving you scientific proof of a deep clean.[1]
Dyson Hyperdymium™ motor controller
Monitors the performance of this Dyson Hyperdymium™ motor up to 8,000 times a second, instructing it to increase suction speed when higher dust volumes are detected. For optimum suction power.[4]
Unique battery power management system
Maximises battery performance and optimises run time – preserving power for when you need it most.
v15 detect
dyson
Buy direct from the people who made it at Dyson.co.uk
Free next-day delivery
1. Quantity and size of dust displayed on screen varies depending on usage. Examples shown may occur within one or more displayed size range. 2. Effectiveness influenced by ambient light conditions, debris type and surface. 3. Quantity and size of dust displayed on screen varies depending on usage. Suction power automatically reacts in Auto mode only. 4. Increase in suction power is only experienced in Auto mode when triggered by increased concentration of dust according to Dyson internal test method. Technology is optimised for Auto mode with a powered cleaner head. Particle size and densities vary.

LIONEL CIRONNEAU/AP





Jewels worth €103m were stolen from the Carlton hotel, which featured in To Catch a Thief starring Cary Grant and Grace Kelly

Judge blames hotel in €103m heist for failure to catch a thief

Adam Sage Paris

The Carlton hotel in Cannes was the setting for Alfred Hitchcock's 1955 thriller *To Catch a Thief*, starring Grace Kelly and Cary Grant. Catching a real-life criminal is proving rather more difficult.

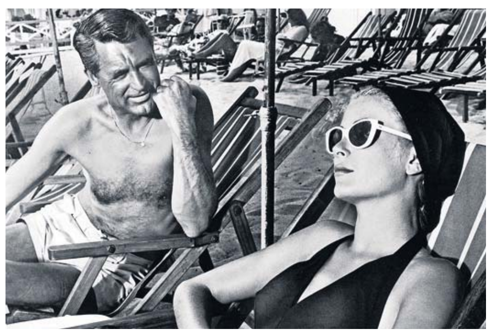
French police have got nowhere in their search for whoever took jewellery worth €103 million from the Carlton in 2013. In the absence of a suspect, the country's courts have been left to determine who is to blame for the fiasco.

This week, a judge partially upheld claims that the hotel beloved by Cannes film festival stars had bungled the security arrangements at the exhibition from which the items were stolen.

The Carlton and BSL, its private security firm, were ordered by Cannes commercial court to pay a total of €15.4 million to Lloyd's of London, which had underwritten the event. Lloyd's had accused the hotel of "very great amateurism" in connection with what is known in France as "the heist of the century".

The insurer told the court that the €3,000-a-night Carlton had put a former laundryman in charge of its security, while BSL had supplied three nightclub bouncers to keep an eye on the exhibition, entitled *Extraordinary Diamonds*.

Lawyers for Lloyd's said no one had checked that the French windows of the exhibition room were locked. They added that the logbook, which was supposed to list staff with keys to the exhibition and the times they entered and left, was "peppered with blanks".



The exhibition was organised by Levant, the Dubai-based luxury group, in conjunction with Lev Leviev, the Israeli diamond tycoon. It was said to have featured an exceptional collection befitting a resort known for film stars and billionaires.

On July 28, 2013, after staff had brought the jewels into the room in a bag and before they could place them in display cases, an armed robber in shorts and a T-shirt walked into the room, pointed a gun at guards and left again with 72 items said to be worth €103 million.

The robber has never been identified or caught. Rumours surfaced during the civil court hearing in February that he is in Morocco. Police do not believe that the culprit was a modern-day Moriarty. They say he was more likely to have been an amateur who got lucky as he exploited the security failings at the exhibition.

Lawyers for Lloyd's argued that the Carlton and BSL should be ordered to reimburse it the $72 million it had been obliged to pay out for the stolen jewels.

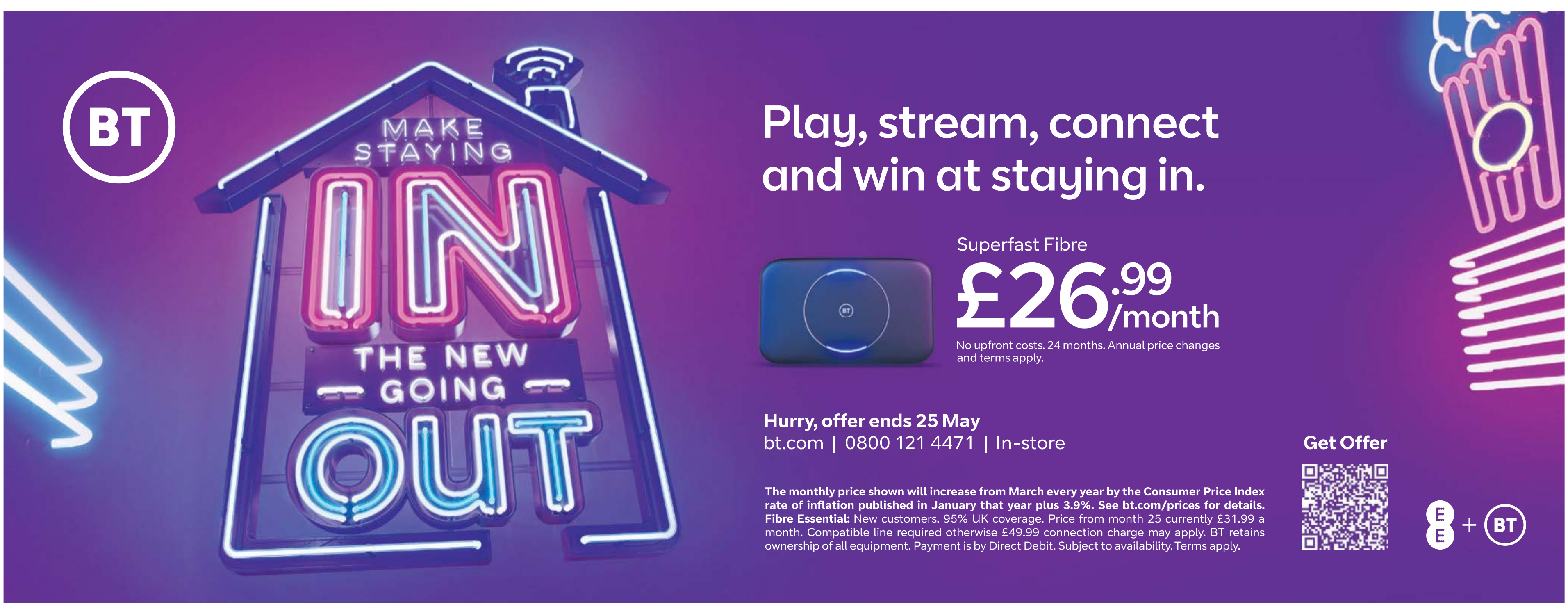
The hotel and its security firm denied being responsible for the failings. They said Lloyd's and Levant were jointly to blame.

In a ruling on Thursday, Nelly Martinez, the presiding judge at Cannes commercial court, ordered the Carlton and BSL to pay Lloyd's €7.7 million each.

"The judgment is not exactly a great triumph for Lloyd's since it has lost 80 per cent of what it had to pay out," said a source with knowledge of the case.

Maître Yves Moraine, BSL's lawyer, said he had "mixed feelings" about the ruling. "In legal terms, it is a disappointment. But . . . since my client is insured to a level of €10 million, it has not suffered too much damage."

Most of the jewels are still missing. The court heard claims that one had been recovered by the FBI and another had surfaced in London. A third is alleged to have been found in Dubai. However, none of these claims has been confirmed.



Spectator could sue Facebook for saying mask article was false

Alex Farber Media Correspondent

The Spectator has threatened to sue Facebook for labelling as false an article it published about facemasks.

Fraser Nelson, the editor of the right-wing magazine, said he was concerned by the lack of transparency around the social media giant after it condemned its article, "Landmark Danish study finds no significant effect for facemask wearers". The piece was first published in 2020 but circulated again on social media this week.

"We're considering suing Facebook for defamation, if only to force them to say why they have labelled [the] information as false," he said. "If you are going to defame an academic as peddling false information then you need to explain yourself.

"These academics took a big risk when they went against the consensus and Facebook has now joined their detractors. Given all the power it has got, that is not good for a free debate."

He cited an Ofcom report that found Facebook was the third biggest source of news in Britain last year, behind BBC1 and ITV. Nelson added that Facebook had initially rejected a column this week by The Spectator's Douglas Murray on the grounds that it violated "community standards on hate speech", but gave no explanation.

"Silicon Valley is beholden to no one," Nelson said. "These guys have power [that the newspaper proprietors] Murdoch, Beaverbrook and Northcliffe never had and exercise it in a way that puts them beyond any regulator."

He also harbours concerns that when Spectator articles are approved, they are "buried" by Facebook algorithms. "It's not that they are biased but that they don't want to feature news and current affairs because it draws political attention and becomes a regulatory headache," he said. "If they are doing anything likely to annoy politicians then their bots will be programmed to take it down.

"Against-the-grain publications like ours, which like to attack politicians and make mischief, are particularly vulnerable to censorship."

The debate over freedom of speech on social media was reignited last year by Elon Musk's takeover of Twitter and subsequent attempt to reposition it as a haven for free speech.

In August Mark Zuckerberg, the founder of Facebook, admitted that his platform had censored a story about President Biden's son during the 2020 election. Zuckerberg admitted that the New York Post article about alleged leaked emails from Hunter Biden's laptop was suppressed after a directive from the FBI to contain election misinformation.

The Spectator's article was assessed in 2020 by Full Fact, a charity appointed as Facebook's first UK-based fact-checking partner in 2019. The partnership was introduced in the wake of criticism over Facebook's role in the 2016 US election. In 2020 one of Full Fact's editors ruled that the Danish study did not provide a full picture.

Full Fact said it considered the fact-checking initiative to be a valuable programme. "The ability to see and check content on Facebook and Instagram made a significant difference to our ability to tackle misinformation during the 2019 UK election and the Covid-19 pandemic," it said.

Other critics of the article said its conclusions — that masks do not significantly reduce infection — relied on a statistical understanding of the word "significant" that might be lost on normal readers.

Facebook has been contacted for comment.

WILL IRELAND/PINPEP



By design Laura Ashley, the textile retailer, has transformed a London phone box using a signature pattern on Upper St Martin's Lane, Covent Garden, for its 70th anniversary. The "mini exhibition" showcases some of its most popular products

Father made 4am bomb threat to MP

Kenny Parker

A Labour frontbench MP was sent a threatening 4am email by a desperate father who threatened to blow himself up at her constituency office unless she helped his daughter.

Paula Barker, MP for Liverpool Wavertree and the shadow minister for homelessness, received the message from Mujahid Iqbal, 53, demanding urgent help for one of his twin girls, who is disabled.

Iqbal, from Kensington, Liverpool, who had been drinking, referred to the five-year-old having heart surgery and said: "I have been asking more than months, and sleeping in the car. Please tell me if have got any more options otherwise I'll come in and blow myself up. I have been homeless, whilst in the past 18 years I have been paying tax.

"I will phone the office tomorrow for the last time and then we'll see what happens. Thank you for doing all to help me."

Iqbal was arrested after Barker's staff alerted police. He later apologised, insisting that he had no intention of carrying out the threat.

At Sefton magistrates' court Iqbal admitted sending a message to Barker that was grossly offensive or of an indecent, obscene or menacing character. He was sentenced to a 12-month community order. He must undertake 80 hours of unpaid work and attend 20 days of rehabilitative activity.

Alex Morgan, prosecuting, said Iqbal had sent the email to Barker at 4.06am on March 28 and that the comments "caused concern".

Ian Birch, Iqbal's solicitor, said: "He has had contact with the MP … social services and the NHS because his daughter has had heart surgery. Clearly on this occasion his frustration was brought to light by alcohol. Mr Iqbal's concern is for his daughter, who is with him at present. She is a twin and her twin and mother are still in Pakistan.

"Following the operation, she is particularly clingy and very upset when Mr Iqbal is not there.

"He is very remorseful because he still needs the support of his MP, the social services and indeed the NHS. Since this incident he has had further contact and has had no difficulties with them."



Representation Example	Duration of Credit Agreement		Device Monthly Repayment		Credit Amount		Upfront Cost of Device		Total Amount Payable	Interest rate	Representative APR	Device Cost (cash price)	Airtime Plan	Monthly Cost of Airtime Plan	Length of Airtime Plan
Samsung Galaxy S23 128GB	36 months	x	£23	=	£828	+	£29	=	£857	0%	0% (This means interest free credit)	£857	8GB + 2 Benefits	£14	24 Months

***Each April, the monthly price shown plus out of bundle charges will increase by the CPI rate published in Jan of that year + 3.9%. This will not affect your monthly Device Plan payments: vodafone.co.uk/CPI.** Minimum term agreement, eligibility, credit check, 25GB roam fair use & terms apply. **Vodafone EVO** means a monthly Device Plan Credit Agreement (over 3- 36m) with an Airtime Plan. The device price will be the same whatever you choose. You can pay off your Device Plan early, and if you do, you can keep your Airtime Plan on a 30-day contract or leave. If your Airtime Plan ends, the Device Plan is still payable (either in full or monthly). Terms: vodafone.co.uk/terms. **Roaming:** using your home plan to roam in Zone A is included in all of our Pay Monthly plans. For roaming in other destinations, charges will apply depending on which plan you are on. See vodafone.co.uk/roamingupdate22 for charges, destinations & terms. **Savings offer on an Airtime Plan:** Ends 01/06. £144 saving: Airtime Plan was £23 (£23pm x 24m) until 04/05, now £17pm (£17pm x 24m), hence £552 - £408 = £144. **Reliable, award-winning network:** The UK relies on Vodafone as a network provider as it: i) powers critical national infrastructure and 77% of emergency services, ii) has coverage in 99% of UK homes, iii) covers 96% of the UK and iv) has won numerous awards. See full details and awards on our Network page. **Finance subject to status and credit checks. 18+. Direct debit required. Credit provided by Vodafone Limited, FCA Number: 712210, Vodafone House, The Connection, Newbury, Berkshire, RG14 2FN**

Daughter's coronation jaunt costs Commonwealth minister his job

People of Papua New Guinea were ticked off by 25-year-old's TikTok travelogue, writes **Richard Lloyd Parry**



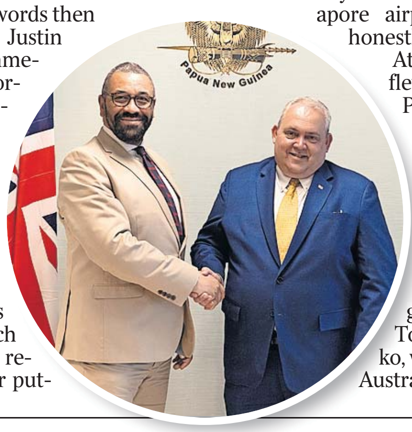
Savannah Tkatchenko shared a GRWM (get ready with me) video, which showed her getting dressed before the coronation and shopping. Her father Justin Tkatchenko, pictured below with the foreign secretary James Cleverly, has now resigned

To other guests the King's coronation, they would have been just another pair of foreign dignitaries — a middle-aged father and his glamorous young companion. But now the foreign minister of the Pacific nation of Papua New Guinea has lost his job after a furious row about lavish coronation spending by his 25-year-old daughter.

Justin Tkatchenko stepped down after denouncing his fellow countrymen as "useless" and "primitive animals" for criticising his daughter, Savannah. He claimed that she had been "traumatised" by mockery of a video she posted on TikTok in which she flew first class, shopped in designer stores, and unpacked her purchases in a luxury hotel in London.

The flaunting of luxury on a trip funded by taxpayers provoked anger and dismay in a country where two out of five live beneath the poverty line. But it was compounded by the furious and racially insensitive reaction of her father, a white man who was born in Australia and became a naturalised citizen of Papua New Guinea.

Demanding Tkatchenko's resignation, Belden Namah, an opposition politician, said: "The 'useless people' and 'primitive animals' of this country have ensured he grew his business, gave him a wife, offered him citizenship, elected him into public office, made him a minister and sent him and his daughter to London. If he has indeed uttered those despicable words then I am calling on Justin Tkatchenko to immediately resign as foreign affairs minister and as member of parliament and further renounce his citizenship," he added.



The Tiktok video posted by the minister's daughter, which has since been removed, shows her putting on a white dress in preparation for the coronation, and shopping during a stopover on the way to London.

"We did some shopping around Singapore airport at Hermès and Louis Vuitton," she tells her viewers. "For those of you that don't know, Singapore airport shopping is honestly so elite."

At least 20 people flew to London from Papua New Guinea, a member of the Commonwealth, as official coronation guests or supporting staff, including the country's governor-general, Bill Toraso. Tkatchenko, who studied law in Australia and who tagged her video #aussiesinengland, went in place of her mother, who was unable to attend. She reportedly received an allowance of K25,000 (£5,600) in government funds as an allowance for the trip for accommodation and meals. Her flight was separately paid for by the government.

The foreign minister added fuel to the fire on Australian radio. "[My daughter] is absolutely traumatised by these primitive animals," he told ABC.

"We went to London, we attended all the meetings and events, and she represented her country without fear or favour to the highest degree and honour…is that misuse of funds when you're going there on an invitation, representing the government?

"Jealousy is a curse. And, you know, these people clearly show that they have got nothing to do in their lives," he added. Papua New Guinea occupies the eastern half of the giant island of New Guinea, with Indonesia to the west and Australia to the south. According to the Asian Development Bank, 37.5 per cent of the 10 million population live below the poverty line. A quarter earn less than US$1.90 a day and only one in five have access to electricity.

"It is not just about the offensive comments," Michael Pais, a student at the University of Papua New Guinea told Radio New Zealand during a protest march this morning. "The primary reason is the manner in which money has been spent on this trip and the extravagance displayed while our people lack the most basic services."

Despite its poverty, the country is a leader among the Pacific Island nations where the United States is increasingly competing for strategic influence with China. President Biden is due to visit Papua New Guinea next week, and will become the first sitting US president to visit the country.

Solicitor, 41, sent porn to woman at City firm

Jonathan Ames Legal Editor

A senior solicitor at a prominent City firm faces being struck off after he sexually harassed a junior colleague, sending her videos of him masturbating.

Oliver Bretherton was said to have become obsessed with the woman when they were at the London offices of Gowling WLG, an Anglo-Canadian law firm. A disciplinary tribunal was told Bretherton, 41, sent the young woman pornography.

The married lawyer was also said to have ogled her as she spread her legs in a swivel chair. The Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal found Bretherton guilty yesterday of professional misconduct.

The tribunal was told Bretherton asked her to bring a sex toy to a party and describe her friend's underwear. He was also said to have asked the woman, who has not been identified, to send pictures of her taking off her underwear and having sex with her boyfriend.

The woman told the hearing: "He [Bretherton] told me to open my legs so he could see my underwear and open them wider so he could have a good view, and then dropped something on the floor."

The tribunal was told Bretherton began a two-year campaign of harassment against her in 2017, bombarding her with messages. "I would be travelling in on the train and Tube, knowing I would have a stream of messages from Oliver," she told the hearing.

The misconduct was found to have started shortly before Bretherton was married. The proved allegations against him included misbehaviour directed at two other young colleagues.

Another woman said Bretherton dropped ice cubes down the back of her dress and commented on her cleavage during an office party.

Gerald Sydenham, the panel chairman, said Bretherton's behaviour was an "abuse of his position".

Chloe Carpenter KC, acting for Bretherton, said the findings were "devastating" for him. More than three years had passed since the law firm reported the allegations, she said. His family had suffered "anxiety", she added. He has since moved to another City law firm.

She argued that an "appropriate sanction" would not be striking off but "a high financial penalty or a short suspension". A hearing was set for June 12 to determine the sanction.

Puffin trip ended with broken spine

Jonathan Ames

A woman is suing a wildlife tour company that has featured on the BBC's *Countryfile* after she broke her spine during an expedition to see puffins and seals.

Carol Laidler told a judge that she fractured her back in two places after the skipper of an inflatable boat launched a high-speed jump stunt. Laidler, 53, is suing Billy Shiel Farne Island Boats for at least £10,000.

The tour company operates from Seahouses, a village in Northumberland, and runs wildlife-spotting boat tours to the Farne Islands off the northeast coast of England.

The rocky islands are home to a range of wildlife, including Atlantic grey seals and many species of seabird. In documents lodged with the High Court in London, Laidler's legal team said that the waitress, who lives in Sunderland, booked an outing on one of the company's inflatable Ocean Explorer speedboats in 2021.

Laidler hired the whole boat for £200 so that the only passengers were her and her guests. The court papers relate that the weather on the day was windy, making the sea choppy.

"On the return part of the trip," the written submissions to the court said, the skipper "undertook a fast blast", described as a manoeuvre that "involved the boat being driven at high speed in a figure of eight and thus passing over its own wake".

As the boat passed over a large wave, Laidler "was thrown into the air and suffered injury when she came back down". Her lawyers said that the boat company was negligent because before the stunt, "no instructions were given that restraints should be used when sitting in the boat and nor were such restraints provided".

It is also claimed that the boat had "unsuitable seats which failed to cushion the impact" when Laidler landed back on her seat.

The company is accused of "failing to provide adequate handholds" and "failing to take into account in the provision of safety equipment, the fact that the boat would be driven at high speed and in choppy waters".

Laidler's lawyers also criticised the company for "undertaking the high-speed figure-of-eight manoeuvre" in "unsuitable conditions".

The company has not yet submitted a defence to the court. It did not respond to a request for comment.

Wife and carer found guilty of enslaving her husband

Will Humphries
Southwest Correspondent

A "deceitful and adulterous" wife and the carer of her disabled husband have been convicted of enslaving him, in the first case of its kind.

Sarah Somerset-How, 49, and her lover George Webb, 50, imprisoned her spouse Tom in his own home, barely keeping him alive while treating him "like a piece of property".

The 40-year-old history graduate, who has cerebral palsy and needs 24-hour care, was kept in his bed in Chichester, West Sussex, for 90 per cent of the time between 2018 and 2020, a trial heard. He was cut off from his wealthy family, allowed to shower only once a week, left with crisps and a sandwich for food, and was abandoned for entire weekends.

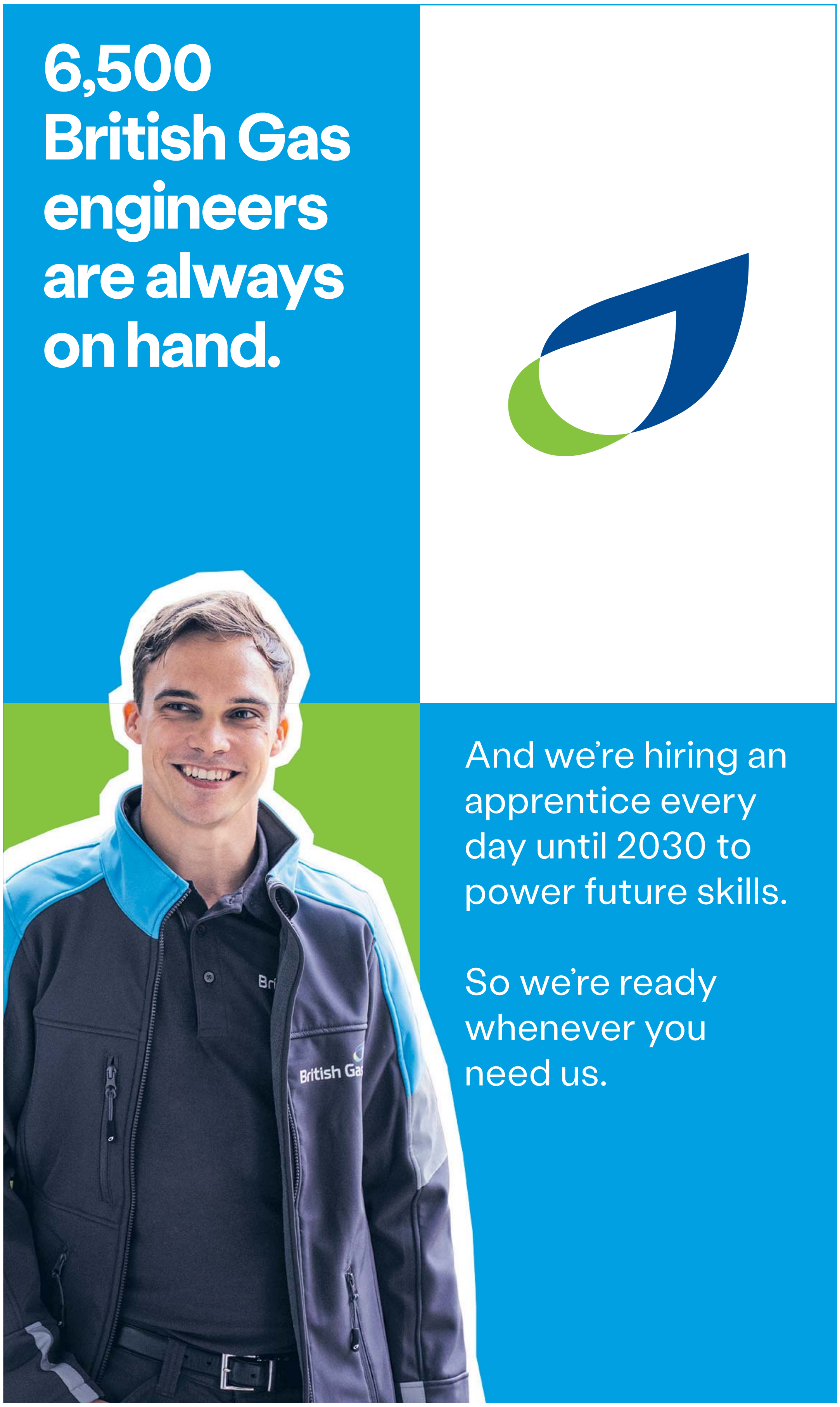
A jury at Portsmouth crown court found Mrs Somerset-How and Webb guilty of holding a person in slavery or servitude. Webb was also convicted of actual bodily harm and ill-treatment by a care worker.

Mrs Somerset-How, an accountancy and law executive assistant, was found not guilty of fraud and theft over allegations she had "plundered" £12,000 of her husband's inheritance.

The case is unique because a slavery charge usually applies to victims who have been trafficked from abroad or forced to work for no pay. The pair will be sentenced at a later date.


VICTORIA ADAMSON FOR MAGNOLIA

Saddling up The inspirational women who will ride in this year's Markel Magnolia Cup, held on Ladies' Day at the Goodwood Festival in August, have been revealed. From left: Husna Aswat; Roya Nikkhah, the Sunday Times royal editor; Caroline Miller; Saffron Oliver; Rosanna Lockwood; Milica Dusanovic; Emma Russell; Olivia Bowen; Dr Laura Toogood; and Maryam Al Jaber



High-energy output from a comic talent who could do better

Comedy Dominic Maxwell

Tom Allen
De Montfort Hall, Leicester
★★★☆☆

Is there anyone who works a crowd with more upfront finesse than Tom Allen? He comes on, self-mocking suavity incarnate in his three-piece suit, declaring his crowd to be made up of wives with reluctant husbands and gays with their mums. He gets minutes of proper fun just from orchestrating the welcoming applause for his support act, the promising Louise Young, before returning to remind us of the contrast between his posh-camp manner and his humble southeast London origins. Talking about his beloved coach driver dad and his school days in Bromley, he doesn't quite say "previously, on Tom Allen…" like a highlights clip for those who know him only from *The Apprentice: You're Fired!* or *The Great British Bake Off: An Extra Slice*, but he may as well do.

Personal stuff can wait, though. Before that he amiably ribs the front row for their quirks and their jobs: "You work in a building society? Where are you from, 1988?" He owns each moment, thinks and speaks too fast to second-guess, so that when he swerves into a set-piece routine about those online booking forms that ask you to confirm that you are not a robot he's ranting for Britain.

Wow. Can he keep that up? Not entirely. Yet if Allen's warm-up man — Tom Allen winging it — is more persuasive than his headliner — Tom Allen giving us his prepared routines — at least the energy never dips. In fact, as Allen talks about finally leaving his parents' home in his late thirties, as he talks of being in his first relationship, he sells his material with an artfully overcooked pique that sometimes becomes samey.

The jokes keep coming, though, fast and fluent. The only disappointment, really, is that for all that he brings up big life moments here, the death of his father not least, he doesn't build on any idea for long. The evening is sometimes nostalgic, sometimes acidic, but bitty. He has observational material about holidays and buying furniture, but while the delivery is bespoke the terrain is familiar. He talks about him and his boyfriend "not being very good at being gay" because they lack a real *RuPaul's Drag Race* strut. It feels like the start of something good. In fact, that's about the sum of it.

Allen must go only where he can find the fun, and nobody is going to go home grumbling about a show that is always diverting. It's just that once you have seen how agile his mind can be it's hard not to feel that he is capable of taking his ideas further, much though he sells them with resounding command.

Touring to June 10, 2024, tomindeed.com


Tom Allen is suave and self-mocking

Cancer hospital loses top rating after bullying row

Kat Lay Health Editor

A world-leading cancer hospital has had its rating downgraded by the NHS regulator amid claims of staff bullying.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) said the Christie NHS Foundation Trust in Manchester was rated as good now, rather than outstanding. On safety and leadership criteria, it was marked as requiring improvement.

An external review commissioned by NHS England in 2020 found current and former staff had reported "instances of inappropriate behaviours and unfair treatment … feeling intimidated … the existence of cliques, the abuse of positional power". "An experience of bullying, harassment and racial prejudice was described, along with lack of respect at work," they wrote.

The new CQC report said: "Staff told us some senior leaders were not always visible or approachable." It went on: "Very senior executives were heavily invested in the promotion and protection of the trust's reputation. This impacted negatively on some staff; staff did not always feel supported and valued."

The Christie is the largest single-site cancer centre in Europe, treating more than 60,000 people a year. More than a quarter of people treated there are referred from elsewhere in the UK.

The new rating is based on both an unannounced inspection of acute medical services on the main site and an announced inspection of the overall trust that the CQC said was prompted "partly due to information of concern received from whistleblowers regarding the culture and leadership of the trust".

The BBC reported claims by a former nurse that leaders had attempted to manipulate the inspection. Rebecca Wight, who worked at the Christie from 2014 until December last year, told *Newsnight*: "The CQC requested a few forums with clinical staff. Those forums were infiltrated by leaders." She said she felt the intent was "to intimidate staff to not speak up or maybe not speak openly about leadership".

Inspectors said they did find outstanding practice at the trust, adding of the medical care: "We found staff treated people with compassion and kindness, respected their privacy and dignity and met people's individual needs". Ann Ford, CQC's director of operations in the north, said although the trust had made changes to improve the culture, "more work needs to be done to address the issues we identified".

Swiftian farce as fans misread clues to order boy-band biography

Constance Kampfner

The mix-up has left thousands of Taylor Swift fans $45 out of pocket and with a 544-page book in the post that they did not want.

A mysterious memoir thought to be written by Swift has turned out to be a biography of BTS, the K-pop boy band.

Its publisher, Flatiron Books, was forced to release details of the book a month early after the American pop star's fans — who call themselves "Swifties" — became convinced that an untitled listing on Amazon was their hero's tell-all.

Despite the fact that its author and title had yet to be confirmed, the memoir shot to the top of book sale charts at Amazon and Barnes & Noble as fans rushed to order a copy. It had an initial print run of one million copies and required booksellers to sign an affidavit to stock copies on publication day.

But now the book that was previously known as 4C Untitled Flatiron Nonfiction Summer 2023 has turned out to be *Beyond the Story: 10-Year Record of BTS*, written by the South Korean journalist Kang Myeong-seok.

Fans became convinced that the book was Swift's after claiming to spot several "Easter eggs" — the singer is known for dropping clues ahead of new releases.

Swifties said the signs, if you knew where to look, were everywhere. They said that the July 9 release date was an obvious nod to *Last Kiss*, a track on her third album, *Speak Now*, which contains the lyrics: "That July ninth, the beat of your heart / It jumps through your shirt / I can still feel your arms."

The date July 9 is also only two days after Swift, 33, is set to re-release *Speak Now*. In her announcement of the new version, she used the phrase "dear reader", which eagle-eyed Swifties interpreted as a sign of literary ambitions.

Then there was the fact that the author and title of the book would be announced on June 13. Fans are well aware that 13 is Swift's lucky number, plus the new book contains 544 pages — and those three digits add up to 13.

In the end, all evidence proved circumstantial. The June 13 date marks the ten years and a day since BTS's first single, *No More Dream*, while July 9, 2023 is the tenth anniversary of the founding of the K-pop group's fanbase, known as "the Army".

BTS are taking a hiatus while all seven members complete South Korea's mandatory military service.



Residents turn guns on party 'battleship'

For the owners of Oceandiva, their £25 million party boat is a vision of the future that will revolutionise Britain's hospitality business (Jack Malvern writes).

Residents along the river on which it will run are less enthusiastic, with some convinced that the 86m vessel with room for 1,000 people is a battleship that will wage war on their sleep.

Oceandiva was due to arrive in Britain this week after being towed across the Channel from the Netherlands. Weather prevented it.

Its owners are making a new application for a 3am alcohol and entertainment licence from Newham borough council after their last attempt drew a record 980 submissions — overwhelmingly objections from residents.

Chloe Jackson, managing director of the boat's owner, Smart Group, described Oceandiva as "the first carbon neutral-powered vessel on the River Thames, revolutionising London's hospitality sector". She said it would contribute £65 million to the economy over five years.

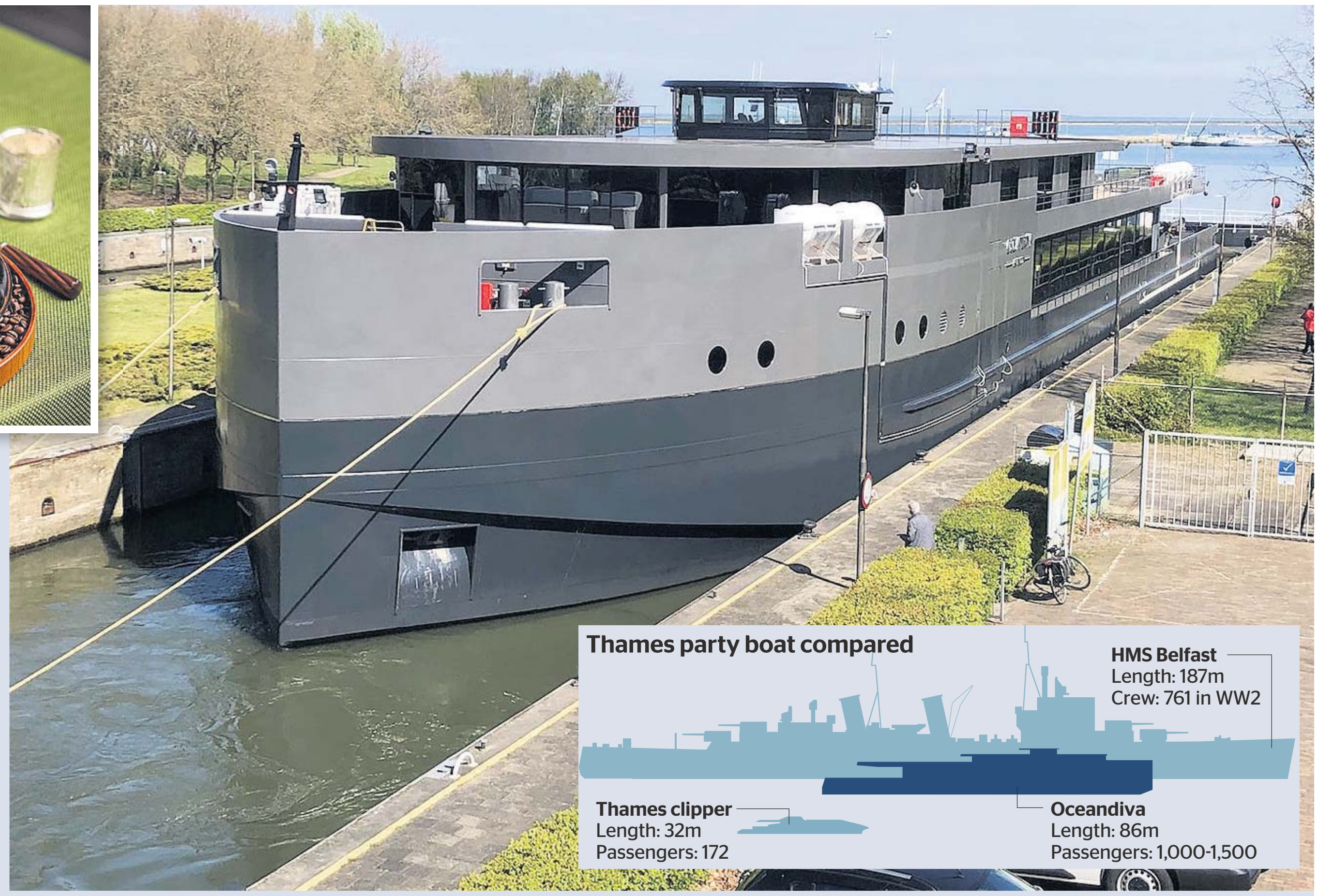
It will serve alcohol in several boroughs but needs a licence only from Newham, where it will be docked when not in use.

Campaigners said it was a quirk in the law that removed the need for a licence from Southwark, where partygoers will board and disembark.

Rachel Bentley, the Liberal Democrat councillor for the area around Butler's Wharf, where Oceandiva is due to receive guests, said that her council had no power over licensing.

Bentley believes that Smart Group withdrew its last application in the hope that opposition would dissolve. "But, if anything, the passage of time has made people more organised." She said her constituents were worried both about noisy parties and guests spilling off the boat at 3am and struggling to find taxis to take them home. She added: "If anything, people are getting more anti rather than less."

Paul Crosbie, a resident of Shad Thames for more than 20 years, said: "It doesn't matter whether [the finishing time] is 8pm or 10am, you'll still have a disturbance. There will also be an impact on the view — it's like a battleship. There are no conditions that are satisfactory."



The new party boat Oceandiva, at dock in the Netherlands, is bigger than the Thames Clipper boats, if much smaller than a real battleship

Football club gives university new goal

Nicola Woolcock Education Editor

After years languishing at the lower end of the league, a proud north Wales institution is hoping an influx of Americans could transform its fortunes.

Wrexham AFC has already benefited after the club was bought by the Hollywood actors Ryan Reynolds and Rob McElhenney. Now the neighbouring university hopes to see its global reputation similarly restored with the help of an American backer.

Katy Davenport, who moved to the UK from Maine in 2011, is the head of international at Wrexham Glyndwr University. She is raising her family in Wales and wants to attract more students to the university from America.

The university is ranked 120th out of 132 institutions in the Times Good University Guide. It has outstanding results for student satisfaction and social inclusion, however, taking on many mature and disabled students.

The university says the city is still excited after the club won automatic promotion to the English Football League. It has already hosted American high school advisers who guide students' higher education choices.

Previously the institution attracted most of its international students from south Asia and west Africa. The US is now part of its recruitment plan.

Davenport has lived in the region for nine years with her English husband and two children, aged three and six.

"It has been a time of excitement and jubilation to see the team finally have the spotlight on it, particularly for those who have been fans for all these years, through the ups and downs," she said.

"I love the area and the people but didn't really appreciate how wonderful the region was until I had children — it's so inviting and warm." The university has about 1,400 international students with many taking business, computing or engineering courses.

"We want to focus as well on new markets," Davenport said. "At the moment we don't have many students from the US. There's a growing recognition [in the US] of the value of a UK degree — three years rather than four, and taking a specialist subject. The cost can be more affordable too.

"Hopefully we'll be able to identify partners in the US and get the message out there that we're open for business."

The university plans to host more American visitors and send representatives to promote its charms.

It is also considering promoting career development on courses attractive to US students, such as nursing or sports coaching, to make the most of the growing interest in football. Yet Davenport believes many Americans will be attracted to the city because it is "wonderful in its own way".



Rob McElhenney and Ryan Reynolds thanked the university for its support

Wrexham Glyndwr was founded in 1887 but was not granted university status until 2008. The most recent Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide says the university "continues to blaze a trail in our social inclusion ranking". It does less well, however, on completion rates, with about a fifth of students dropping out.

It is upgrading teaching facilities and its art school as part of a £60 million redevelopment of its sites. It has laboratories for computer game development and the study of crime scenes, a flight simulator and supersonic wind tunnel.

Until last summer, the university owned Wrexham AFC's Racecourse Ground, one of the oldest stadiums in the world. When buying it back, Reynolds and McElhenney paid tribute to the university. "The symbolism of this moment is a massively important step for the club going forward," they said.

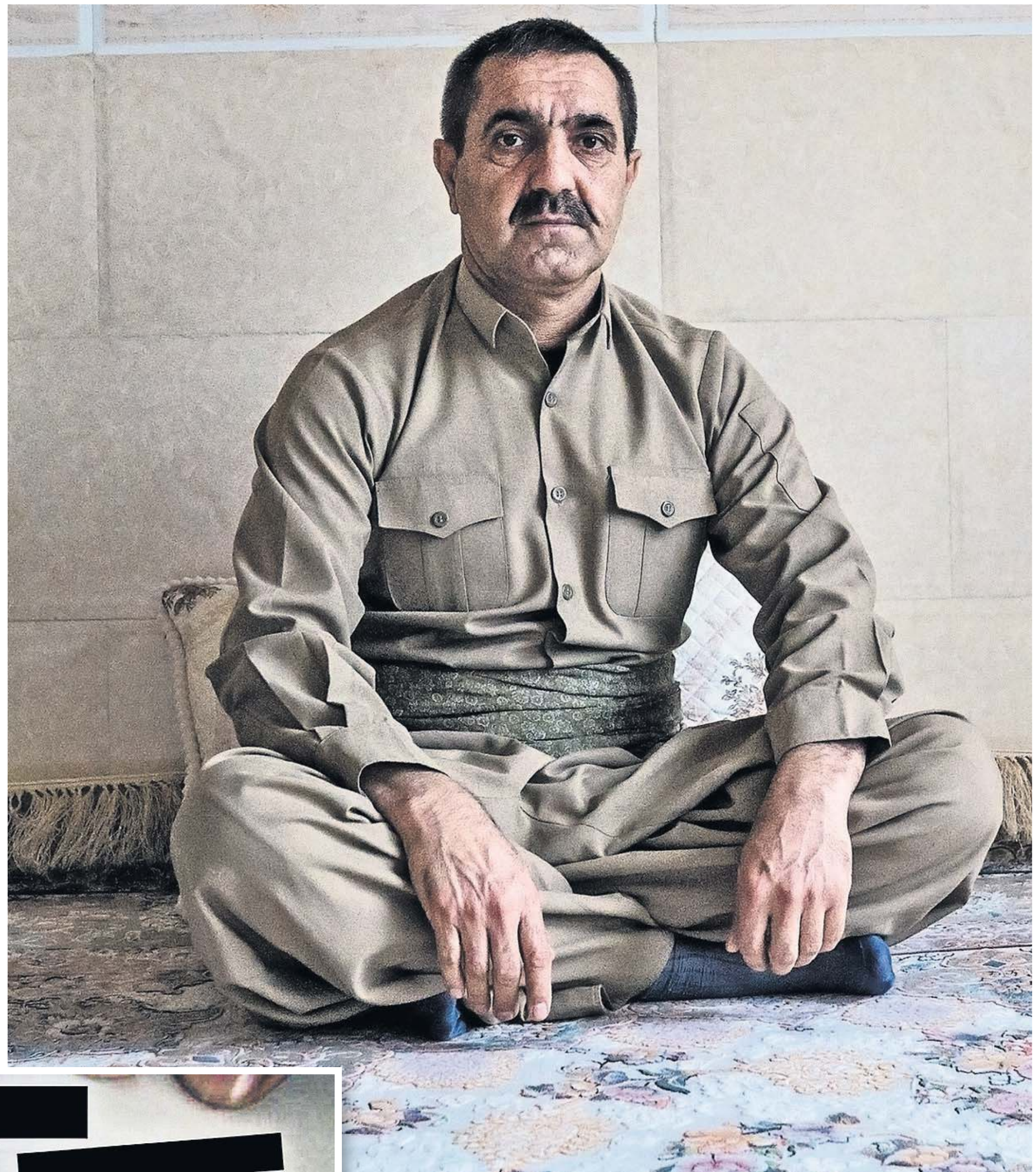
"We would like to thank Wrexham Glyndwr University . . . for the support they have provided the club historically. We look forward to enhancing our already strong working relationship with them."

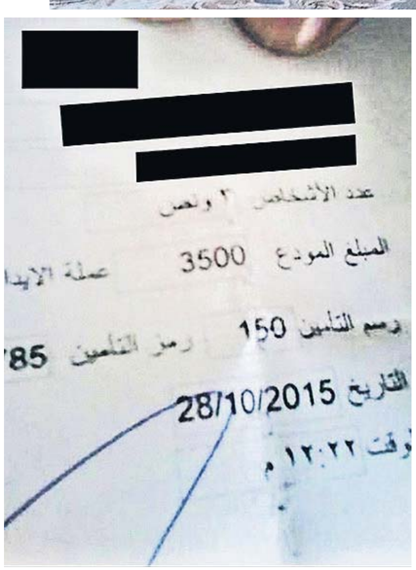
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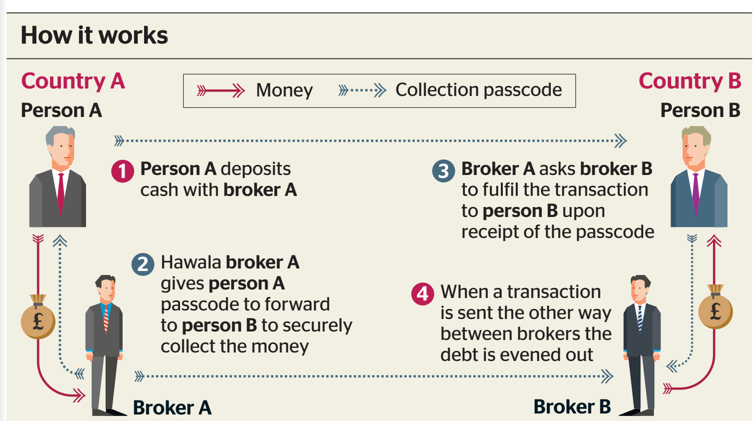
Brokers protect smugglers' profits

The financial system of hawala dating back to the Silk Road makes cash tough to track, **Emma Yeomans** writes

ANDRES MOURENZA







The hawala system helped Mustafa Mina Nabi's son Zanyar reach France but he died when his smuggler's boat capsized

The last message Mustafa Mina Nabi received from his son Zanyar was sent from his friend's phone in the cold Calais refugee camp in November 2021, where Zanyar and a group of Iraqi refugees had been waiting for a month.

"Everything is fine, everything is set," the message said. "Tonight if the weather is good, we will try again to go."

The next day, Zanyar and his friends drowned when their boat sank, in one of the worst migration disasters in the English Channel to date.

The dozens of messages Zanyar sent his father were more than just updates. Mustafa had entrusted his son's safety and the cost of his journey to a hawala broker, an informal money exchanger who liaised with smugglers to arrange the journey.

As police and intelligence agencies disrupt smuggling gangs across Europe, cutting off their access to banking, the ancient, untraceable form of banking known as hawala has become increasingly important, enabling migrants to pay smugglers without being scammed.

By refusing to pass payment on to smugglers until a migrant reaches their destination, they act, according to a National Crime Agency (NCA) source, as a "criminal escrow", providing insurance to migrants in the absence of safe and legal routes.

Every time Zanyar crossed a border, he would notify Mustafa, whose broker would authorise payment to the smugglers, financing his journey to Britain and ensuring the smugglers could not take his money without delivering him to his destination.

But when a migrant dies, it falls to the brokers to put a price on that life: should a family like Mustafa's, who have spent their life savings on a child's passage to Europe, lose their money as well as their son?

An investigation carried out over the past year, by a team of six journalists working along the migration route between Iraq and the UK, has revealed the vital role played by brokers in facilitating people-smuggling across Europe.

Hawala as a method of transferring money or value dates back to the Silk Road and relies on trust. It is legal in the UK, provided a broker registers with the Financial Conduct Authority, and is a common way for immigrants to send remittances home to their families.

Now, as the lack of organised asylum routes fuels irregular migration and people-smuggling, it has emerged as a preferred method of banking for those seeking to reach Britain. Rather than facilitating actual transfers, hawala works through balanced debt. For example, a person in Britain wishing to send £500 to a friend in Iraq can deposit the cash with a broker with whom he will also agree some kind of password.

He then speaks to his friend, while the broker speaks to a counterpart in Iraq, and both share the password. The friend then goes to the Iraqi broker and uses the password to collect the cash.

But in this transaction, no money has actually been sent from Britain to Iraq. Instead, the Iraqi agent simply owes the British agent £500. When someone wishes to send money in the opposite direction, the debt evens out, and the agents take a percentage of the transaction as a fee.

Gözde Güran, an assistant professor at Georgetown University and an expert on migration and the hawala system, said the process is easily adapted to smuggling, often by refugees making half their payment up front and leaving half with a hawala agent.

She explained: "Then when they are taken to the destination, they message this original hawala agent who would then release the payment, the rest of the payment, to the smuggler. It's a safeguard mechanism."

Hawala, she added, has "a status of reliability" which gives migrants confidence in their journeys.

Aisha, a Kurdish refugee from Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, came to Britain earlier this year with her two young daughters after she was targeted for her work as a journalist.

Before she left, she deposited €4,500 for her journey to Britain with an agent in Iraq. Like Zanyar, she would send updates to her father. "With every border I have crossed, I send my father a message with my location and he messages the [broker] so that payments can be made to the smuggler," Aisha said.

"The smugglers are ruthless," she added. "They know I have deposited money so are aware I will cross the Channel soon. So far no smuggler has come to force me to cross but I have seen them doing it to other women and there have been cases of them raping women or threatening them in other ways to get them to cross."

Sherko — a pseudonym — runs a travel agency in Ranya, Iraq, where he connects would-be migrants with smugglers. "People want to go abroad, at any cost," he said. "What we can do is find the best [smuggler] … so they are not fooled or robbed."

The smugglers, he said, are "really good guys", adding: "The first thing you need is to find someone you can trust. Mostly they are not people from this area."

Without hawala, his business would not function. "This way is a filter, so your money doesn't get wasted," he explained.

"If they take the money with them, it will be robbed in certain places like Aksaray [a central neighbourhood of Istanbul]. You are a foreigner, they will take your money. Nobody carries so much money."

Samir, a former smuggler who agreed to speak using a pseudonym, was familiar with many such agencies in Turkey. Between 2015 and 2019, he earned $150-200 for every migrant he smuggled from Turkey to Greece.

Explaining how he adapted the hawala system to gain migrants' trust and arrange payment, he said: "We go together [him and a migrant] to the office. The office has to be trusted by him.

"I give a fake name and he gives his real name. And let's say we put €5,000, and then the migrant receives a code, that only he and the man in the office have. When he reaches the destination he gives the code to the smuggler."

A source in the NCA said the agency had investigated hawala brokers in its bid to disrupt the cross-channel smuggling business, though they added hawala itself was not illegal.

Describing it as a "criminal escrow", the source said it was challenging to investigate because by its nature hawala leaves little to no record of transactions.

The system, they said, was also being used to move proceeds from smuggling abroad or to launder it. "It's difficult to quantify the scale because of not having those kind of formalised records," they said. "We aren't able to assess the amount that is going through this type of system."

However, other cases internationally have exposed the grand scale of money laundering and transfer taking place through the hawala network.

Alaa Qasim Rahima, also known as Abu Al Awl, earned huge sums smuggling migrants from Turkey to southern Italy and on to destinations across the Continent. He was captured as part of a large Italian operation codenamed Astrolabio, and is now detained in a prison in Italy awaiting sentencing.

"For each migrant, I asked for around €500 or €600. The sums were deposited with agencies in Turkey," he told the investigators last November.

"The money I have is in Turkey and amounts to around €300,000," he added. A further €250,000 was stolen by a middleman, he said, but this huge loss was not enough to worry him.

Despite his admissions, investigators have not been able to recover his funds. The untraceable nature of hawala offers perfect cover for his funds.

Even families like Mustafa's, whose lives have been devastated by smugglers, are unwilling to hand over the hawala brokers to law enforcement.

He reported the smuggler whose failing boat killed Zanyar to authorities, but would not do the same to the broker, who ultimately refunded the family for Zanyar's doomed journey.

A hawala broker "would not ruin his reputation" by swindling a migrant, says Mustafa. "Here we are from the old school. If he did something like that, no one would do business with him again.

"Smugglers trust the money exchange and we trust it too."

Additional reporting by Priyanka Shankar, Elena Ledda, Andrea Giambartolemi, Andres Mourenza and Iliana Papangeli. This work was supported by a grant from the IJ4EU fund and by Journalismfund.eu.

By degree, we're losing touch with humanity
Weekend essay
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Comment

Prisons are a disgrace but no one will say so

Future generations will be appalled that politicians desperate to look tough on crime locked up so many vulnerable people

Matthew Parris



In a civilised country every generation looks back and spots an outrage — slavery, child labour, lunatic asylums, the rights of women — and wonders how its ancestors could have been so cruel. And our generation? What will horrify our own successors?

Speaking to me, Rory Stewart did not mince words. The system he found as prisons minister five years ago was "grotesque, horrifying and shameful". He described "young men sharing cells with older men who were mentally disturbed … defecating in front of each other … a horrifying combination of loneliness and terror". He speaks of this as in a state of post-traumatic shock. The prime minister, Theresa May (says Stewart) had been giving his boss, the justice minister David Gauke, cautious cover for reducing Britain's bloated list of short-sentence prisoners. But Boris Johnson toppled her and junked all that. He missed a chance to do some good.

So did Sir John Major, who is big enough admit it. It's brave in a former prime minister to look back over his own record and reflect in public on an important thing he failed to do. His speech on Tuesday to the Prison Reform Trust deserved wider publicity. Too few seem to care: too few beyond a rather small circle of enlightened and knowledgeable people such as the trust, chaired by James Timpson, whose family business offers work to former prisoners.

"One of the virtues of age," said Major, "is having time to reflect on what you have left undone with, no doubt, some regrets along the way." In a deeply researched but carefully phrased speech he argued that "we overuse prison and undervalue alternative sentences". Too many vulnerable people, he said, "including the mentally ill", are jailed. He thought IPP prisoners — indeterminate imprisonment for public protection — (to which I shall return) should be re-sentenced. We shouldn't imprison so many on remand (pre-trial or pre-sentence), many of whom won't finally receive a custodial sentence. Ministers (he went on) are increasingly overturning Parole Board decisions, although the board's judgment has a good overall record. Education and rehabilitation in prison is inadequate, Major suggested — and, my goodness, that's an understatement; as is his assertion that "much of the prison estate is out of date and unsuitable".

Stewart and Gauke agree with Major about cutting the numbers of short (non-violent) prison sentences. They wanted to. If (Gauke told me) "you wish to rehabilitate [prisoners], what they need is a job, a home and family relationships. Put inside, they lose all three." Gauke shares Major's and Stewart's belief that prison is particularly inappropriate for many women, sometimes pregnant, disproportionately likely to be victims or mentally unwell.

> Sunak is no moral crusader but he should look at other countries

As for IPPs (putting people behind bars indefinitely) I venture that nobody who has properly studied this disastrous New Labour attempt to look tough on crime now believes it was a good idea. David Blunkett, then home secretary, bitterly regrets it; the Tories' Kenneth Clarke abolished it for new cases; but for the 3,000-odd still inside (not counting 270 who have died, 81 by suicide) no justice secretary has dared risk a reform that could later invite a Daily Mail headline "Thug released to strike again". I wrote here in 2021 about a once-young man who'd otherwise have got about two and a half years and has now been in for 18. A campaigning group, UNGRIPP, is working for more general reform and I hope the new justice secretary, Alex Chalk, will listen.

And be given licence to listen by his boss, Rishi Sunak. But Sunak has just been told by our current opposition leader (in a disgraceful attack-tweet) that 4,500 *more* sex offenders ought to have been imprisoned. Sir Keir Starmer knows very well that not every such offence, many involving no kind of assault, should attract a prison sentence. He's endorsing that shameful tweet as part of his party's new and cynical "tough on crime" message.

What advice then, to the politicians? For those of us who see prison and sentencing reform as a noble mission, Labour's new stance is depressing. Both Labour and the Conservatives are able to give or withhold political cover when a government of the other colour embarks on sensible reform that may nevertheless be sniped at in the populist media. Clearly Labour will withhold cover.

And the Tories? Suella Braverman's instincts appear to be primitive. As for Sunak, what advice? He's no moral crusader, but as a pragmatist he might check the international comparisons. Norway (since reforms in the 1990s) has abolished big central prisons, sends far fewer people to jail but spends more on their care and rehabilitation, and now has one of the lowest crime rates (and the lowest rate of re-offending) in the world. The Netherlands has shut 23 prisons since 2014; their prison population has halved since 2004; during the ten years from 2008, Dutch prison sentences dropped by a quarter and jail terms for young offenders by two thirds, while their crime rate dropped by 40 per cent.



Sir John Major's speech to the Prison Reform Trust deserved wider publicity

My guess is that the British political instinct will be to do this — if it be done at all — by stealth: a tweak here, an adjustment there. But creeping reform will be found out by the thugs of politics. Moses in the desert found the need for a pillar of cloud and a pillar of fire to guide him. Prison reform should be a big, bold, naked mission backed up by an unashamed moral defence. Politicians may find more public support for this than they suppose.

Drop into a court and watch a scatter of cases. Mostly you will see before you a parade not of the villainous but of people whose lives have just disintegrated into a horrible mess. Some are themselves victims: unstable, chaotic or ill. Only occasionally will you feel that punishment is what they're short of.

Stewart suggested a novel thought.

> Most are not villainous but their lives have broken up into a mess

Children go home from school. We in work are shepherded by employment law, but live lives beyond the state. Soldiers have an existence outside the barracks. The poor, sick or unemployed get money from the state but spend it as they choose and go where they please.

Who, then, is really and wholly in the state's charge? Only our prisoners. They alone depend utterly: their existence, its boundaries, their means of sustenance and the shape and composition of every hour of the day, are in our hands. They are our captives. Are we discharging well our duty of care towards these often pathetic, damaged, largely uneducated, often illiterate, barely numerate, often unloved, vulnerable souls? I don't think so; and — mark my words — nor will your great, great grandchildren.

RED BOX
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Helen Rumbelow Notebook

Bracing and sizzling, the beach sauna is hot again

In the Second World War there was a line of gun turrets along the southern coast of England. Now they have been replaced: a new unbroken line of cabins has appeared on the shores of Lyme Regis, Bridport, Studland, Sandbanks, Worthing, Shoreham, Brighton, Seaford and Folkestone. But these cabins bring our defences down, not up. If once we feared German invasion, what goes on here means we have now surrendered ourselves to a nakedly German approach: beach saunas.

I say naked, but in the Brighton beach sauna I went to I was relieved to wear a swimsuit while sitting thigh-to-thigh with strangers. It's more that my British defences felt ripped away by spending a solid hour with a guy whose name I didn't catch but whose nose-sweat droplets I certainly did.

It never used to be like this. In the 1970s, saunas were a fad, mostly in people's homes. As depressing as sitting alone in an Ikea-built coffin, they were mostly ripped out.

In the early 2000s I went to Glastonbury and was encouraged into a "naked sauna tipi" by my more gung-ho sister. Reluctantly, I backed in before my eyes adjusted to the gloom. I ended up sitting down on a bumpy surface, which turned out to be the lap of a large bearded hippy called Devon. This was considered a bold move even in context.



Now, saunas are hot again. But this time, it's more in the communal German spirit. The Germans think nothing of "schwitzing" naked with anyone, even their boss. In Brighton it was hard to know which was more bracing: my sizzling dash from sauna to chilly Channel, emerging euphoric after encountering only a few bobbing poos? Or the grunting transformation of flesh into boiled tomato with a group of stranger-intimates? I loved it all.

Trouping the colour

Another Saturday, another landmark event to divide the nation into those loyal to tradition and high camp, and those forced to sit through coverage of fast costume changes of "supertunicas" while muttering "this better not delay *Match of the Day*". Yes, when you put last week's coronation so close to tonight's Eurovision you realise they make one fabulous "Euro-nation" (don't say that too fast). One event has a pan-European bloodline, loves queens, blingy hats and being political while not being political. And the other is Eurovision. Did no one think to share costs by doubling up on the pomp? How hard would it be to get every act to the Liverpool Arena in a gold carriage? How difficult would it have been for King Charles to sing *Super Tunica* to the lyrics of Abba's classic *Super Trouper* (a meditation on the perils of extreme fame)? "Facing 20,000 of your friends," the King could have crooned. "How can anyone be so lonely?"

Old-age aristos

Ministers will soon have to decide when the state pension age should be pushed up to 68, says work and pensions secretary Mel Stride. It will mark the end of the era in which retirement is the new aristocracy.

It used to be that you popped your clogs soon after the gold watch. Before long, workers will be slaving well into their 70s. This makes the current pensioner cohort unique: the last to retire with decades of final-salary-supported leisure ahead. Just like the landed gentry of Austen-era Britain, they are relatively moneyed and property-rich. Barely a month goes by without a postcard arriving from my father-in-law, off on an exotic jaunt.

When I see pensioners engaged in their noble pursuits — tending gardens and worrying about inheritance — I briefly think "I hope m'lord is enjoying himself" before going back to work, my income tax now my tithe to those born to the manors.

Ann Treneman is away

America, for £300k you can have my kitchen

A designer 'Britkit' is the must-have look for New York celebrities but they forget the cat litter trays and mouldy bananas

Giles Coren



British kitchens are apparently the big new thing in New York. A Leicestershire kitchen showroom called deVOL recently opened in lower Manhattan and subsequently appeared on some US TV show called *For the Love of Kitchens*, leading to the emergence of the "Britkit" as a stateside passion comparable (at least for The Sunday Times) with Beatlemania.

The reason girls are lining the docks to throw their knickers at these mop-topped sinks and larders as they come into port has a lot to do with the celebrities who have recently installed British-made kitchens in their New York homes, including Baz "*Romeo + Juliet*" Luhrmann ("But soft, what light through yonder walk-in freezer breaks?"), Ashton Kutcher, Mila Kunis and Lily Allen, who is said to have told her actor husband David Harbour on their first date that what she was looking for from a relationship was a Plain English kitchen (from 51 East 10th Street, NY). Experts also cite the inglenooks and butler sinks of the *Downton Abbey* kitchens and Kate Winslet's Cotswold cottage in *The Holiday* as influences in the Britkit craze, which is all about "aged brass cup handles, freestanding larders the size of wardrobes, marble slab tops, tongue-and-groove cladding and peg rails".

It is, of course, a source of huge pride at a difficult time for the British reputation overseas that the richest people in the beating heart of the world's biggest economy want to copy the rooms we cute-ass Limey peasants cook and eat in, but it makes me wonder if any of these swanky-doodle-dandies has ever seen inside an actual English person's kitchen. And if not, would they like, perhaps, to see mine? And then, maybe, buy it? For, say, £300,000, which is apparently par for the course.

This price will include, as all real English kitchens do:

Two over-the-radiator drying racks in fine white English plastic, hanging on which, as standard, are three school football socks miscoloured from the wash, one pair damp Y-fronts (with artisanal skidmarks) and four holey old J Cloths which don't soak much up any more but one doesn't like to throw away.

One rubber socket tea towel holder stuck to wall next to sink, with two of the rubber teeth missing so it can't actually hold tea towels, but no one knows how to remove it.

> A halved onion is next to the strawberries so they taste like armpit

One 11-year-old Amtico floor that was once white and supposed to look like limestone but is now brownish with massive air bubbles that hiss satisfyingly under your slippers because when the builders said, ten years ago, "If you lay these tiles without waiting for the concrete to dry properly, they'll start to come up in about ten years", we told them to shut up and get on with it.



Swanky-doodle-dandies admiring our Downton kitchens is a source of pride

Microchip-operated catflap that doesn't recognise the cat's chip any more so has to be propped open with a spatula at night so she can come and go. Which means all the local tom cats come and go too. But you get used to the smell eventually.

Infrared cat piss-detecting torch, usually kept in the jam jar with the screwdrivers and dried-out Pentels. Shine it along the skirting boards at night and you'll be able to locate and hose off the worst of it.

Assorted jam jars full of no-longer legal tender coins that never made it to the Coinstar, so what the hell do you do with them now?

Four thousand Ocado bags no one ever remembered to give back to the Ocado guy. But they will next week.

Seventeen Heinz tomato ketchup squeezy bottles, upside-down with various levels of "not much" left in the necks, lined up on the sideboard like a sort of ketchup xylophone.

Six small plastic plant pots half-full of dried-out compost lined up on the windowsill which once contained chilli pepper seedlings (or possibly courgette) that did sprout a couple of tiny leaves but then everyone lost interest. What with the 2018 World Cup and everything.

Cat litter box with seven small poos in that hardly smell any more.

Breakfast bar at one end of the kitchen island with two bar stools that literally nobody has ever sat on to eat breakfast, or any other meal. From day one it was just another "somewhere to pile crap" space.

A section of wall scarred with indelible ink lines from 2ft 3in all the way up to 5ft 5in, marked either "kitty" or "sam" in back-to-front letters with the date when their height was measured.

Built-in fridge that doesn't shut properly because the false door on the front is too heavy for the hinges. It'll shut if you ram it with your knee, but then pop open in the night and defrost and cause an argument about who didn't shut it properly.

Fruit rack with three tiers so that overripe bananas don't make the lemons go blue, but where people always put one halved onion next to the strawberries so they all taste like armpit. Comes with year-round fruit fly infestation.

Smoke alarm over the oven that goes off every time you cook anything and also whenever it runs out of battery, which is always at 3am and cannot be stopped except by the insertion of a new nine-volt battery. Except where are you going to get a nine-volt battery at this time of night? Will almost certainly not go off when there is an actual fire.

Half a dozen plastic mousetraps hidden behind things from when there was a mouse problem, before the now-quite-old cats came.

A corner containing a Swingball mast, three spades, two football pumps and six pots of unlabelled paint that could be for any wall in the house, or none of them.

Dozens of rubbish "artworks" by the children Blu-Tacked to every bare bit of wall that were put up so as not to hurt their feelings when they were six but can never be taken down now because what if they died?

Ten nearly empty boxes of Crunchy Nut cornflakes and a broken Roberts radio that "still looks nice" on the shelf above the microwave, which doesn't work because someone put a tin of baked beans in there to see what would happen, and it happened.

Fairy lights threaded round the curtain rail (so you can't open or close the curtains) that no one's bothered to take down from Christmas. 2011.

Two hair-lined cat baskets, a dog basket (whether there is currently a dog living here or not) and a basket of old Beanos going back to when Dennis the Menace's dad still hit him with a slipper at the end of each story.

Three Velux windows in the extension roof occasionally opened to get rid of frying smells (because the extractor fan hasn't worked for yonks) but rarely closed after dinner (when people are pissed) so if it rains in the night you come down in the morning to three feet of water and a lot of cat litter, Beanos, ketchup bottles, Crocs and tiny poos floating about.

Miriam Darlington Nature Notebook

Riverbanks are busier for builders' eager return

When you go out into the wild looking for a specific species you almost always get something you didn't bargain for. Looking for otters on my local river, the Dart, I usually see a kingfisher or a dipper instead. It's never a waste of time, even if things do not go according to hopes. Since 2010, when Devon Wildlife Trust began its first scientific trial of beavers' impact, in a fenced enclosure on a wetland habitat (a headwater above a reservoir in the Tamar catchment), beavers have been in the news — and I've longed to see one. As an otter woman, I've been quiet in my assumption that otters are still the best. I have it on good authority, for example, that your average beaver is less "sharp" in intellect than an otter. What could beat the slick lutrine evasions, its wily disappearances? They're just too clever for us. But otters, it turns out, are only one among many species that will benefit when it comes to the prodigious usefulness of beavers.



My mistake was to take sides. The trick is to listen and to learn. As a naturalist, you know to always be curious, not to make assumptions, to never stop asking questions. Poor beavers. The last one was seen in the wild in the 16th century. They became extinct in Britain all because they are a bit slow, their silky-soft fur made good hats and they exude castoreum, a substance rapaciously exploited as a tincture for perfume. Nobody saw a pair of their goofy, rust-coloured incisors in Britain for 400 years.

After the first licensed wild-living beaver trial on the River Otter, also run by the trust and underpinned by the sound scientific work of the University of Exeter, the government made a landmark decision in 2020 that the beavers were allowed to remain. In 2022 they were declared a native resident species and were accorded protection. Beavers have been living on the Otter for ten-plus years now, and as well as modifying the riverine habitat enough to allow many species of flora and fauna to return and proliferate, during the 2020 lockdown they gave groups of six or fewer much-needed socially distanced delight. Habituated to onlookers, the beavers busily gnawed the bankside willows (which quickly regenerated) and perfected their lodges — the homes they make in the river to protect their young from predators such as wolves and people.

My beaver expert suggested a spot where I could see for myself how the beavers' integral place in our countryside ecosystem has been successfully re-established. Go in the evening, he told me, as beavers are nocturnal and often appear at dawn and dusk in the summer months.

Beaver benefits

The day's rain was easing but the river was swollen and brown as a beaver's back. I arrived in my wellies and waterproofs. The setting sun slid caramel warmth through a sliver in the clouds, throwing a burst of light over the water. Look long enough into the quick, bright flow and every bump and swish looks mammalian, every slap and drip sounds like a beaver's tail. My ears attuned and as the light faded my other senses took over: I was close to the lodge, an apparently messy but internally well-organised fortress made of deadwood. It was much smaller and more camouflaged than I'd expected. The smells of mulchy wet mud from the path and the sodden bankside vegetation filled my nose: cow parsley, nettle, willow, oak in full flower and, above it all, the distinct sweet tang of freshly browsed wood tannin.



Damselflies are among countless species that flourish beside beavers

The first gnawed willow stump I saw was deftly sculpted and already green with regrowth. I tried stealth-walking but that is hard in waterproof gear. If beavers were allowed roughly 20 metres' buffer either side of their rivers (that might be roughly 5 per cent of the land currently used by people) all the ecosystem benefits could follow. A beautifully complex mosaic of restored wetland with braided habitats would support the flourishing of bird and amphibian populations: water beetles, dragon and damselflies, freshwater fish, water rail, snipe, heron and willow tit, even migrating salmonids.

I watched and waited as the bats came out to skim the water and zip past my ears to feed on the cloud of midges around me. A tawny owl cried out and a line of young cattle, fenced a short distance away from the riverbank, became fascinated with my tip-toeing and quietly followed me, their breath condensing in a mist. So, what have beavers ever done for us? Vastly enriched biodiversity. But apart from that? What else? Fire and flood prevention.

OK, OK, I hear you cry. But apart from vastly enriched biodiversity, fire and flood prevention, better water quality, drought resistance and climate resilience, marsh fritillary butterflies, habitat for fish, palmate and great-crested newts, dragonflies, herons and otters … what have beavers ever done for us?

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Beyond the blue wall, a green hedge is rising

From polluted rivers to muddled energy policy, the Tories are no longer seen as safe stewards of Britain's countryside

Janice Turner



@VICTORIAPECKHAM

A quiet revolution happened last Thursday. The first Green Party majority council not just in Britain or Europe but the whole northern hemisphere was elected in Mid Suffolk. All Green gains bar one were from Conservatives, who have run this rural area since the dawn of time but are now down to six out of 34 seats.

Political chatter about blue walls and red walls has drowned out a new phenomenon: the green hedge. From 162 councillors in 2014 to 362 in 2019, the party now has 738 seats in England and Wales. In neighbouring East Suffolk, Tories are out of power for the first time ever, with a new Green-Liberal Democrat coalition in control. In East Hertfordshire, the Greens are the biggest group. Now the party best known for protest, whose supporters have glued themselves to roads, has a new challenge: can it put its principles into practice? Notably, its one local election defeat was Brighton and Hove, a minority Green administration, which has now swung back to Labour. Not only did the city's recycling record plummet under Green rule but, with two refuse strikes, it failed even to empty bins. Critics say councillors were activists who preferred performative gestures to fixing potholes, serving its large student population and hipster city centre while ignoring poor outlying estates. They also shared with the Scottish Greens, in coalition government with the SNP, an overriding obsession with gender ideology. (National Green policy is unequivocally pro-self-ID.)

These are the "watermelon" Greens (red on the inside) who include Corbynistas defecting from Sir Keir Starmer's Labour, or "figs" (black, red and green) — anarcho-communists involved in Insulate Britain or Just Stop Oil. But those now taking power in Tory rural areas are a wholly different fruit: mangoes (orange inside) who most resemble, and work in tandem with, Lib Dems.

These Greens tend to be solid, older, serious, well-educated and practical people who have had conventional, even distinguished careers. Andy Mellen, who will lead Mid Suffolk council, is a smallholder with 20 acres of apple orchards and sheep. His colleagues include experts in entomology and coastal ecology. Mellen is pragmatic: he is pro-agriculture but believes in rewilding on less productive land. His first passion project will be to use council reserves to insulate thousands of homes. He talks of electric bus pilot schemes and new farmers' markets. The nearest Mid Suffolk Greens come to identity politics is that some would quite like to change the title "chairman" to "chair".

What swung it for the Greens on the doorsteps of these traditional Tory shires? Mainly, a pervading sense that Conservatives are no longer trustworthy custodians of the countryside but in the pockets of private wealth. The biggest issue is

> The Greens can call upon the resources of a global movement

what Greens call the housing paradox: ugly, disruptive development in scenic villages yet locals having nowhere to live. Lax planning allows executive homes on greenfield sites to attract rich outsiders rather than providing affordable or local authority-rented homes for the young.

In Aldeburgh, Tom Daly, one of the town's three Green councillors after a total Tory wipeout, says the dumping of sewage in Suffolk's seas and rivers by private water companies is perceived by voters not only as despicable in itself but "a microcosm of everything that is wrong under this government". It represents deregulation, corporate greed, short-termism, lack of investment, national disregard for local concerns and a brash, Tory recklessness. It is the Greens — who have tested rivers such as the Deben to find *E. coli* levels dangerous for swimmers — who have proved themselves better rural stewards. Last summer's record temperatures and their effect on crops in what is already Britain's driest county alarmed farmers. Green politics also appeal to idealistic younger voters.

Moreover, Suffolk is at the centre of national energy policy. Many voters are alarmed by the proposed building of the Sizewell C nuclear power station. Far more are appalled by a free-market mess of the government's own making. Energy from an array of North Sea wind farm companies needs to come ashore. But instead of insisting they all converge on an offshore grid, it has approved a massive substation to be built on arable land and for cable corridors to be built up and down the coast. The effect on wildlife and tourism, a major employer, in an area of outstanding natural beauty has been ignored because it is cheaper for the energy firms.

When lifelong Labour supporters in red wall seats first voted Tory in 2019 it was suggested they'd broken a taboo. Now they might easily do it again. Does the same apply to Tories who've put a toe in Green politics? Julian Cusack, a Green parliamentary candidate for Suffolk Coastal, speaks of breaking a "a long deferential tradition" of rural conservatism — the notion that only the Tories understand the countryside. His opponent is Thérèse Coffey, the environment secretary much blamed for inaction on sewage outflows, who only lately has started voicing support for the offshore grid plan to protect the coast. Cusack's biggest problem will be persuading the Lib Dems, who have also done well locally, not to stand and thus split the vote. Coffey may have a 20,000 majority but within the new boundaries of her seat there are just two Tory councillors.

Mellen knows how closely the first Green council will be scrutinised. Local Tories tried to taint them with an election leaflet showing Brighton's rubbish-strewn streets. Though novices to power, the Greens are highly motivated and determined to prove doubters wrong. And they have one untapped advantage: the resources of an entire global movement. "I've been astonished by the congratulations and offers of help from across the world," Mellen says. All eyes are on the mangoes of Mid Suffolk's green hedge.

Letters to the Editor

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Sugar content of Nestlé's new cereal

Sir, Nestlé , the world's largest food and drink manufacturer, has launched a new Kit Kat cereal, which it initially claimed was "nutritious", despite the product comprising a quarter sugar. Nestlé has repeatedly said in public that it is committed to selling healthier food, yet in private it continues to research and develop new ways to sell us sugar, before spending millions on advertising and promoting products in exciting packaging with misleading nutritional claims.

The government's voluntary industry programme to reduce sugar content has largely failed. By contrast, the mandatory soft drinks industry levy was a huge success as companies reformulated products to escape paying it. The government has had successive opportunities to tackle the flood of unhealthy food, but despite public support has failed to take appropriate action. If it had implemented its own obesity strategy, which included limiting the advertising and promotion of highly processed sugary foods, it could have saved £76 billion over the next 25 years. Instead, rates of diet-related disease continue to grow unchecked. It should not take a consumer backlash to get irresponsible companies to act. The case for government intervention is clear.

Ben Reynolds, Sustain; **Katharine Jenner**, Obesity Health Alliance; **Anna Taylor**, the Food Foundation; **Jonathan Pauling**, Alexandra Rose Charity; **John Maingay**, British Heart Foundation; **Bridget Turner**, Diabetes UK; **Professor Graham MacGregor**, Action on Sugar and Salt; **Louis Bedwell**, Mission Ventures; **Eddie Crouch**, British Dental Association; **James Toop**, Bite Back 2030

Sacking officers

Sir, While I applaud Devon and Cornwall police for sacking one of their officers for lying about a maths qualification on his application form (report, May 11), I cannot square this with the apparent impunity from dismissal enjoyed by scores of officers across the country facing accusations ranging from sexual misconduct to racial harassment.

Beatrice McBride
Burwash, E Sussex

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'Woeful policies' harming UK tech industry

Sir, Juliet Samuel reveals this government's scandalous neglect of science and technology businesses ("Ministers are sabotaging our tech industry", comment, May 11). Ministers talk hubristically of Britain becoming a "science and technology superpower" but their woeful policies diminish this to a mere political slogan. In the UK, Dyson now faces rocketing corporation tax (wiping out any tax credits for research and development), damaging legislation on working from home — even for those who need to work collaboratively in labs — and a crippling shortage of qualified engineers. Now the government intends to reduce "non-compete" clauses to only three months, sabotaging the very intellectual property underpinning all future growth. In fields like ours, employees are privy to new technology that has not yet been launched, and work on a pipeline that stretches many years into the future.

Dyson has just announced an investment of £100 million in a new technology centre in Bristol but we are investing far more in modern, forward-looking economies elsewhere in the world that encourage growth and innovation rather than deter them. Meanwhile, the prime minister refuses to meet entrepreneurial, technology-focused employers and investors like me.

Sir James Dyson
Malmesbury, Wilts

Sir, On his first official visit after the coronation, the King visited the Whittle Laboratory in Cambridge, one of the most advanced aviation research centres in one of the world's leading universities. Hence it was bizarre to read Juliet Samuel's thesis that the government was sabotaging British technology and innovation. She overlooks the creation of the Department of Science, Innovation and Technology as well as the Advanced Research and Innovation Agency, and a recent allocation of £100 million into AI research — all within the past few months. I am sure there are individual examples of bureaucracy and poor decision-making on the ground, and there is no doubt that Brexit has had a huge impact, but the UK remains one of the leading countries for technology, much of it thanks to government support.

Lord Vaizey of Didcot
Minister for culture and the digital economy 2010-16; House of Lords

Sir, Juliet Samuel is right to highlight problems with funding, infrastructure, skills and regulation faced by innovative UK businesses. Many physics-based companies have warned us that unless the UK provides the right support the country will fail to exploit the opportunities presented by the revolution in technology. UK jobs, livelihoods and security depend on us doing everything we can to build on our existing potential in crucial sectors of the future such as quantum, AI, semiconductors and fusion. But the UK is in a precarious position. Research that we commissioned last year found that 60 per cent of physics-based businesses were pausing their investment plans because of a shortage of physics skills. Although recruiting from overseas can help, it is no substitute for homegrown talent. To do that, the government must do three things: fix the desperate shortage of physics teachers in our schools, sort out our technical skills system and the systemic barriers we face in physics-related apprenticeships, and encourage young people from all backgrounds to consider physics as a subject for them.

Tom Grinyer
CEO, Institute of Physics

Bishops and ideas to halt migration

Sir, Your leading article ("Real World", May 11; letters, May 12) claims that the bishops have offered no practical alternatives to the Illegal Migration Bill. I disagree. People smugglers must be stopped and small-boat crossings reduced. Yet the government's own analysis notes that there is "limited evidence" that deterrence policies work, and the risk is that such policies become tools of punishment rather than effective means to address a crisis. We must speed up the processing of claims. This would be more compassionate, just and would bring down accommodation costs. Greater investment in voluntary return projects, and robust returns agreements, are needed. Working with the UN High Commissioner for Refugees and international partners, we should open more safe routes to reduce demand for people smuggling. We could lead the world in efforts to drive out the people smugglers while restoring our overseas aid budget to target support in countries where conflict and climate change are propelling migration. This could be done without compromising our commitment to dignity, hospitality and the rule of law.

The Right Rev Paul Butler
Bishop of Durham

Sir, The issue of illegal migration for the UK cannot be solved until the European Union gets its act together. Illegal migration is a European problem and the EU should put resources into detaining all migrants at the point of entry to Europe, processing genuine refugees and returning all others. It also needs to put resources into fighting the people traffickers. France should be rounding up and processing all illegal migrants before they even get to the Channel.

Neil Vokes
Wokingham, Berks

Rail reform

Sir, Your leading article on rail reform (May 12) correctly identified that Great British Railways can help to fix our railways. A strategic "guiding mind", bringing together track and train, would offer much-needed accountability and coherence for the customer. However, putting private sector operators on flat-rate management contracts would be repeating the mistakes of the existing contractual model, introduced during the pandemic, but now hampering recovery. To respond to the changing travel habits of its customers, Great British Railways needs to give rail operators appropriate commercial freedoms so that they can compete with more polluting transport modes such as air travel and cars.

Andy Bagnall
Chief executive, Rail Partners

Zelensky's address

Sir, The broadcasters seem to fear that allowing President Zelensky to address the Eurovision Song Contest final would create a precedent…for the next time the contest has to be moved from a small country recently invaded by Russia ("Eurovision bars address by Zelensky", May 12). A precedent means that if you do the right thing this time you might have to do the right thing next time

Jonathan Lynn
Co-writer, *Yes Minister*; New York

EXPERIMENTAL OMNIBUSES WITH ROOFS

FROM THE TIMES MAY 13, 1923

Motor-omnibuses of a new type were shown yesterday in the streets by the London General Omnibus Company. The omnibuses will be known as the "NS" type, and have been designed to enable passengers to step from the kerb to the floor of the vehicle without climbing the additional step as in previous types, while the lower centre of gravity will enable the company to fit, if desired, a covered top during the winter months. The company hope to obtain sanction from the authorities to work a sufficient number of omnibuses with covered tops during next winter, to demonstrate the advantage or otherwise of the covered top.

If permission is obtained for the experiment, travellers will be given an opportunity to decide whether they want a roof, and their opinion is likely to change as often as the weather. If the roof is permanent and the day fine, they will regret the breezes that are denied them; if the roof is absent and the day wet, they will speak as bitterly as now of dripping tarpaulins and umbrellas ungovernable in a gale. Years hence, omnibus designers may produce a covering which is both storm-proof and instantly removable. However, an adaptable roof will impose a new responsibility and a new exercise in psychology upon the conductor. He will have to decide, when a shower begins, how long it is likely to last. He will have to decide whether the passengers on his upper deck are optimists or pessimists, whether they persist in hope for the sun or are already cursing the deluge. Omnibus travellers are, for the most part, a reticent and orderly race, accustomed to herding and submissive to authority. The conductor will look in vain for an indication of the general will. Would they like the roof on or off? How is he to know? Not by a show of hands, for hands disappeared long ago into pockets and muffs. Perhaps by a show of umbrellas. The statesman who had to decide, perhaps ten times a day, the wishes of a democracy that would not vote might be pardoned if he gave up his task in despair. The omnibus conductor will not give up. If ever the invention of an adaptable roof imposes this new responsibility upon him, he will face it with the courage which now carries him for ever up and down the eternal stairs.

THETIMES.CO.UK/ARCHIVE

Pharmacy-free area

Sir, Your report "Pharmacists will prescribe antibiotics and free up GP slots" (May 9; letters, May 10 & 11) makes me wonder whether ministers ever consider remote, rural and coastal communities when developing policy. Many rural patients do not have access to a pharmacy, so their GP practice dispenses their medicines. Consequently, the service announced on Monday will not be available, nor the resources associated with it. In addition, it took me two and a half hours to log in to my practice's IT system today. A telephone consultation with a patient took three attempts owing to the poor mobile reception; in the end, the patient had to visit me in the surgery.

I am all in favour of new approaches and services but in order to provide them we need to get the basics right: IT that works and services that can genuinely be designed around local patients' needs.

Dr Richard West
Chairman, Dispensing Doctors' Association; Woolpit Health Centre, Suffolk

ENO's new home

Sir, Richard Morrison's typically forensic analysis of possible future homes for English National Opera ("The 'plan' for ENO's new home is pure fantasy", Times2, May 10) omits one intriguing possibility: Llandudno. This lovely Victorian resort boasts a splendid theatre, Venue Cymru, capable of taking the largest shows, a local audience enthusiastic for opera thanks to regular visits from Welsh National Opera and is easily reached from Chester and Merseyside. If ENO were based there, WNO might even reinstate Liverpool on its tour. The only question would be the name: NWO (North Wales Opera) perhaps?

Mark Bellis
Colchester

Short, sharp shock

Sir, My wife and I have a secret signal when she judges that I am going over the top at the dinner table (Times2, May 10; letter, May 11). If I am within reach, I get the kick under the table and a stern look with the accompanying remark "Darling — LLIC". This stands for "long lecture in car". As she is, in fact, a judge, this is best avoided. Until the next time.

Anthony Donne KC
Tavistock, Devon

Doting doesband

Sir, I recognised Harriet Walker's description of a "doesband" ("He does it — without being asked", Times2, May 11). I have one too. Our freezers are full of home-cooked meals that put an alternative slant on a "ready meal". I am recovering from a broken shoulder and am being waited on hand and foot. Stuart is at present frowning at a muddy rug, courtesy of our young Airedale, who gets a daily five-mile walk. So, not so rare, but I wouldn't let him near a paint brush.

Philomena Proud
Leicester

Sir, I've been a "doesband" for the best part of 30 years. Indeed, this morning, unprompted, I have done the shopping, washing and ironing. However, when I look at my son's "floordrobes", I wonder whether it may be a tendency that skips a generation.

Tim Kerin
London E7

Daily Universal Register

UK: The Army v Navy Rugby Match, a traditional forces event contested by the senior 15s of the Royal Navy and British Army, takes place at Twickenham Stadium.

Birthdays today



Dame Andrea Leadsom, *pictured*, Conservative MP for South Northamptonshire, 60; **Baroness (Rosie) Boycott**, founder, Spare Rib, and editor, the Daily Express (1998-2001), 72; **Jack Brereton**, Conservative MP for Stoke-on-Trent South, 32; **Lord (Anthony) Clarke of Stone-cum-Ebony**, justice of the Supreme Court (2009-17), 80; **Prof Dame Jane Glover**, director of opera, Royal Academy of Music (2009-16), 74; **David Hill**, musical director, Bach Choir, chief conductor, BBC Singers (2007-17), 66; **Prof Kathleen Jamie**, poet laureate of Scotland (makar), 61; **Harvey Keitel**, actor, *Reservoir Dogs* (1992), 84; **Carrie Lam**, chief executive of Hong Kong (2017-22), 66; **Johnny Logan**, Eurovision winner (1980, 1987, composed the 1992 winning song), 69; **Richard Madeley**, broadcaster, 67; **Armistead Maupin**, writer, *Tales of the City* (1978), 79; **Scott Morrison**, prime minister of Australia (2018-22), 55; **Samantha Morton**, actress, *Minority Report* (2002), 46; **Robert Pattinson**, actor, the Twilight saga (2008-12), 37; **Selina Scott**, former ITV and BBC presenter, 72; **Tim Shipman**, journalist, political commentator, The Sunday Times, 48; **Zoë Wanamaker**, actress, *My Family* (2000-11), 74; **Stevie Wonder**, singer-songwriter, *I Just Called to Say I Loved You* (1984), 73.

Birthdays tomorrow



Dame Siân Phillips, *pictured*, actress, *I, Claudius* (1976), 90; **Francesca Annis**, actress, *Macbeth* (1971), 78; **Anne Baker**, writer, received an MBE for fundraising for the NSPCC in the 2021 new year honours, 109; **Ian Blackford**, SNP MP for Ross, Skye & Lochaber, SNP Westminster leader, 62; **Cate Blanchett**, actress, *Blue Jasmine* (2013), *Tár* (2022), 54; **Sir Chay Blyth**, the first person to sail non-stop westwards around the world, 83; **David Byrne**, singer-songwriter and guitarist, Talking Heads, 71; **Sofia Coppola**, film director and screenwriter, *Lost in Translation* (2003), 52; **Greg Davies**, comedian and actor, *The Cleaner* (since 2021), 55; **George Lucas**, film-maker, the Star Wars and Indiana Jones films, 79; **Martine McCutcheon**, actress, *EastEnders* (1995-98), *Love Actually* (2003), 47; **Olly Murs**, singer-songwriter, *Troublemaker* (2012), 39; **Fraser Nelson**, editor, The Spectator, 50; **Benedict Nightingale**, journalist, theatre critic for The Times (1990-2010), 84; **Sir Richard Peto**, emeritus professor of medical statistics and epidemiology, University of Oxford, 80; **Prof Sir Peter Ratcliffe**, nephrologist, co-recipient, Nobel prize for physiology or medicine (2019), 69; **Tim Stevenson**, lord-lieutenant of Oxfordshire (2008-21), 75; **Robert Zemeckis**, film-maker, the Back to the Future film series, *Forrest Gump* (1994), 71; **Mark Zuckerberg**, co-founder (2004), Facebook, 39.

On this day

In **1981** Pope John Paul II was wounded by a gunman in St Peter's Square; in **1995** the Briton Alison Hargreaves became the first woman to climb Everest without a Sherpa.

The last word

"Our sweetest songs are those that tell of saddest thought." Percy Bysshe Shelley, poet, *To a Skylark* (1820)

Deniable Operation

Labour and the Liberal Democrats should be more open about a future electoral non-aggression pact. The public deserve to know what they are voting for

The breast pocket can be a dangerous tool in British politics. If your aim is to portray one party leader as the puppet of another you simply mock-up a picture of him or her poking out from the suit pocket of an actual or potential coalition partner. *Spitting Image* used this device to devastating effect in the 1980s against David Steel. Ed Miliband suffered similarly in a Conservative attack ad in 2015 when he was portrayed as the wide-eyed plaything of a sinister Alex Salmond. The aim, of course, is to paint coalitions as bad things: you choose one item from the menu and end up being served something distinctly not to your taste.

David Cameron was the beneficiary of the conflation of Labour and Scottish nationalism in 2015, promising "stability and strong government with me, or chaos with Ed Miliband". Mr Cameron won but the stability bit eluded him. He resigned 13 months later following defeat in the Brexit referendum. Given their participation in the coalition of 2010-15 and recent history suggesting that a big majority does not necessarily equal stable government, the Tories will find a "coalition of chaos" pitch against a potential Labour-Liberal Democrat government a hard sell. But it does not follow that these parties should escape interrogation about what a coalition might mean.

That a Lib-Lab deal is on the cards in a hung parliament is not in doubt. Although the local elections were disastrous for the Conservatives, with more than a thousand council seats lost, Labour is not home and dry in terms of an overall parliamentary majority. While ruling out a pact with the Scottish National Party, Sir Keir Starmer has signally refused to do the same with the Lib Dems. Indeed, Lib Dem elder statesman Sir Vince Cable has suggested that "deniable" discussions about a Lib-Lab arrangement may be taking place already.

This begs some questions. First, it appears that the parties may have benefitted mutually from informal "non-aggression pacts" in local contests. In previously Conservative-dominated Bracknell Forest, the Tory vote share fell by just six points but only 10 of 37 Tory councillors survived the Labour takeover. This was partly the result of the Lib Dems standing aside in some wards where Labour was second and vice versa. Voters had no say in this and many were denied the chance to express their real preference at the ballot box. It is one thing to contest an election as declared allies and another to do it on the sly. If the parties were operating as allies they should have said so.

A bigger question concerns proportional representation. Sir Keir is said to be a "longstanding" sceptic on PR but a previous comment during the 2020 Labour leadership election was more positive. In a hung parliament, PR would naturally come top of a Lib Dem shopping list. And that demand might be for a parliamentary vote whipped in favour of reform rather than a referendum. Why? Because when Mr Cameron went into coalition with Nick Clegg in 2010 the deal on PR involved a referendum, one in which 68 per cent of voters rejected it. This issue should not be left hanging in the air. Sir Keir should say now if he, like Mr Cameron, would insist on the safeguard of a referendum. A seismic constitutional change should not be the stuff of a backroom deal that lacks an electoral mandate.

The two knights, Sir Keir and Sir Ed Davey, may be reluctant to oblige with clear answers. For them, "strategic ambiguity" is the game. In any case, the electorate may be taking matters into their own hands. Local election returns suggest tactical voting is increasing naturally, with voters coalescing behind the most plausible anti-Tory candidate. There are a number of websites offering advice on how to vote this way. Rishi Sunak should not fixate on this. Coalition is a non-starter for him. To win, the prime minister must win alone, and on his record.

Good Decision

Kemi Badenoch was right to abandon a reckless pledge to scrap retained EU law

One of the enduring images of Rishi Sunak's first doomed bid for the Conservative leadership last summer was a campaign video of documents purporting to be European Union laws being fed into a shredder. Its purpose was to underline his pledge to repeal 2,600 items of EU law in his first 100 days in office. This went further than even Jacob Rees-Mogg, the architect of the proposed Retained EU Law Bill, had contemplated. It was a promise borne of Mr Sunak's desperation to convince a radicalised Conservative membership that he could be as populist as Ms Truss — and its trickiness has only become more apparent over time. The prime minister was entirely right to give Kemi Badenoch, the business secretary, the green light this week to bin it.

In truth, there was never any realistic chance the pledge could be delivered, at least not without inflicting further damage on British businesses already struggling to contend with multiple challenges including high energy costs, rampant inflation, worker shortages and new Brexit-driven barriers to trade. There was nothing wrong with the idea of reviewing all EU law in the aftermath of Brexit to work out which could and should be reformed, scrapped and retained now that Britain is no longer bound to follow the same rules as its partners. Indeed, the government has an obligation now that Britain has left the EU to identify opportunities to get rid of unnecessary bureaucracy, streamline processes and ensure that rules strike the right balance between business efficiency and consumer and environmental protection.

Yet the decision to set a deadline by which all retained EU laws, whose number has ballooned to nearly 5,000 pieces of legislation, would automatically lapse unless the government chose to retain it was misguided.

Allowing laws to lapse that may be underpin industries upon which hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of pounds of investment may depend is not a decision to be taken lightly. A government should take the time to examine the purpose of each law, how it fits into the wider regulatory framework and consult with businesses and other stakeholders. By setting an arbitrary deadline, ministers succeeded only in casting a further cloud of uncertainty over the economy, deterring investment at a time when it has never been more needed. Ms Badenoch had little choice but to abandon the unworkable plan. As she acknowledged when justifying her decision, such was the scale of the potential disruption that the bill would have inflicted that civil servants were engaged in a frantic exercise to identify which rules must be saved, leaving no time for the far more productive work of systematically identifying which rules were ripe for meaningful reform or repeal. As things stand, the bill will still repeal 600 EU regulations that the government deems no longer serve Britain's interests.

Inevitably Ms Badenoch's sensible decision has attracted cries of betrayal from right-wing Brexiteers for whom excising all traces of Britain's past EU membership has become their defining objective, regardless of the economic consequences. But this dwindling rump of European Research Group dinosaurs no longer carry any weight in the House of Commons, let alone in the country. They can and should be ignored. It is their strand of Brexit purism, more than any retained EU law, that belongs on the scrapheap.

Party Time

The Eurovision Song Contest is a great excuse for a get-together

A coronation one weekend, Eurovision the next. As regards magnificently theatrical festivals of dressing up, the Brits are being spoiled this May. The difference between last Saturday and this is that the ceremony in Westminster Abbey was, while colourful and entertaining, also a weighty occasion. Nobody takes Eurovision too seriously, with the exception of President Putin, whose hackers tried to wreck last year's broadcast in which Ukraine stormed to victory, and President Zelensky, who wanted to address tonight's audience but was, rather bizarrely, turned down.

Many countries in continental Europe used to be more in awe of this gloriously absurd spectacle, partly because — as Julio Iglesias, Celine Dion and of course Abba demonstrated — the exposure could lead to mega-stardom, talent permitting. In recent years, taking a cue perhaps from the peerlessly arch commentary of first Terry Wogan and latterly Graham Norton, the event has mutated and grown into a splendidly silly celebration of camp, youth and emoting. While readers able to recall Sandie Shaw and Lulu's triumphs may give tonight's broadcast a miss, Generation Z will be all dressed up and glued to the telly. Over 160 million people watched the 66th contest a year ago.

The increasing popularity of Eurovision stands in inverse proportion to the favour British acts have found with voting juries. The UK has not won since Katrina and the Waves in 1997, and Katrina is actually American. Since then, Britain has finished last five times, twice registering the dreaded nul points. This shocking record contrasts with the golden period 1967-1981, when the Brits were victorious four times. Following Sam Ryder's second place (with a rather good song) last year, surely its time has come again, especially given home advantage in Liverpool? We wish all the performers, but especially Mae Muller, the best of luck.

Write to Feedback by emailing
feedback@thetimes.co.uk or by post to 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF

Be warned: we'll have to coronate the next King

Rose Wild
Feedback



@TIMESFEEDBACK

God save the King's English, wrote Adrian King from Bromley, southeast London, after enduring last weekend's tsunami of coronation commentary.

"Not only can we welcome a brand-new monarch but also a brand-new addition to our vocabulary. His Royal Majesty was not merely crowned — that would be very old hat — but 'coronated'. So much grander-sounding."

I'm not sure if "old hat" in the context of all those crowns was deliberate but I like it. As to his main point, he's of course quite right about "coronated". Considering the volume of verbiage events like this entail, it is odd that one word should stand out, but the ubiquitous "coronated" in voiceovers and studio discussions does seem to have made quite a few people's quiche go down the wrong way. Twitter was awash with exclamation marks and capital letters — "CORONATED IS NOT A WORD!!!" — and my sister-in-law came round to tea on Tuesday, said she'd heard it on the BBC and asked what I was going to do about it.

She's got more faith in my powers of influence than I have, but it's worth having a look at where this all comes from. Despite what Twitter thinks, "coronated" is in fact a word; it just isn't the word those pundits were looking for. That, naturally enough, was "crowned", but as Mr King suggests, it obviously struck them as a little down to earth for such a great occasion.

In the dictionaries, "coronate" is usually an adjective, meaning "having a crown or corona", and is applied not to royalty but to plants or animals; a bird, for example, might have plumage "coronate with blue feathers". The Oxford English Dictionary gives a citation from 1698 where the word describes "spiral shells which have their whorls surmounted by a row of tubercles" — not a flattering image for a new monarch — and there's worse: a 1707 work about the flora and fauna of Jamaica refers to "a round purplish knob … coronated by a long membrane." I did come across one further application of the word, in cookery books of the 1970s, when it was all the rage for tomatoes to be sliced in half in a zigzag pattern to decorate wilting lettuce leaves. Apparently they were known as "coronated". Back in the present, Mr King managed to associate the word with coronation chicken, and in his fevered imagination its appearance in the TV commentary conjured up "an irreverent image of Justin Welby solemnly applying a velouté of curried mayonnaise, crême fraîche and white wine to the royal pate".

Purple knobs and mutilated tomatoes aside, are we stuck with "coronate" for all royal occasions of the future? Across the Atlantic, naturally, they already have it their own way. While our dictionaries might include one citation of "coronate" as a verb, with the caveat that this usage is "very rare" and basically confined to the 16th century, Merriam-Webster happily lists it as "a bona fide verb meaning to crown". We have been warned.

Noise out of joint

Perhaps it is time to repeat this line from the introduction to the Times style guide: "English is not a language fixed for all time. Speech changes and its written form should change too." We might fight a rearguard action against "coronate" but there are some changes of use and meaning that are just part of the normal evolution of English.

One such is "crescendo". Andrew Brooke wrote from Pulborough, West Sussex, to say he has lost count of the number of times he has seen "crescendo" being used to mean a loud noise, the latest example being in a report about classical musicians expressing their anger about arts funding. "'Crescendo' is an instruction to musicians to play louder, and may mean no more than that they should start playing *piano* (quietly) rather than *pianissimo* (very quietly). Anger can no more 'reach a crescendo' than a car can 'reach an acceleration'." Technically he does have a point, but the sense in which we use crescendo today has extended well beyond its original musical context. The OED gives "the loudest point reached in a gradually increasing sound" as one of its meanings and we see no problem with this.

And we've had plenty of time to get used to it. F Scott Fitzgerald showed the direction the wind was blowing in *The Great Gatsby*, back in 1925. "The caterwauling horns," he wrote, "had reached a crescendo."

Cross purposes

It's been a while since we've had a complaint about Union Jacks. I was surprised we got through last week unscathed. Maybe the sticklers decided to turn a Nelsonian blind eye for the duration of the festivities.

The truce couldn't last. Andrew Welch wrote to point out that in our graphic comparing ebike sales in various countries "the British cyclist is carrying a Union Flag upside down".

So he was. Here's the rule: "In the half of the flag nearest the flagpole, the wider diagonal white stripe must be above the red diagonal stripe, as Scotland's St Andrew's Cross takes precedence over Ireland's St Patrick's Cross". How could we forget?

It all adds up

Ben Whitley of Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire, added the initials "ACA" after his signature to signal his credentials as a chartered accountant. He possibly needn't have bothered.

"In your report about a mafiosi pizzeria in Rome you describe them using 'double-entry bookkeeping' to keep cash payments 'hidden from the taxman'. ALL bookkeeping is double entry, which simply describes the use of offsetting debits and credits in recording financial transactions. I think you meant to refer to the practice of keeping two sets of books, one for the taxman, showing lower revenue/profits, and the real set for the owners, showing everything."

Useful information, thank you.



Tories must pray Penny's sword is mightier than their broken vows

Matt Chorley

TIMES RADIO
Listen to Matt Chorley every Monday to Friday, 10am to 1pm



When you've lost Theresa May, you really are sunk. The SS Great May sailed from the Commons to the choppier waters of the Lords this week, now apparently the figurehead of a fleet of lefty-lawyer-loving, hand-wringing woke snowflakes. Imagine being too right-wing for the "Go home" van lady. She dropped anchor near the King's throne just so she could send up a distress signal about the government's Illegal Migration Bill. She shook her head, sounded the foghorn, sent up a flare as the cabin boy Lord Murray, a former district councillor who owes his ministerial career and life peerage to Liz Truss, manned the poop deck to defend the "Stop the boats" plans.

Stopping the boats is, of course, one of Rishi Sunak's five pledges. Indeed, it is his flagship pledge, although mainly because the others are going so badly. Halving inflation? Prices are still running high. So too the debt he's not cutting. The economy shrank in March. And the pledge to cut NHS waiting lists suffered the small hiccup this week of actually jumping to record highs. Well done, everyone.

For a long time, the only person publicly agitating about the boats was Nigel Farage in a lifejacket, patrolling the south coast like a sexy mash-up of *Baywatch* and *Last of the Summer Wine*. Then the Tories seized on it and talked up this small bin fire as a great emergency (albeit one they now can't extinguish) — while ignoring the big building behind us ablaze.

"There will be fewer lower-skilled migrants," the 2019 Tory manifesto promised. "And overall numbers will come down." This was, we were assured, a Brexit dividend. Indeed, in May 2016 someone called Boris Johnson warned ahead of the EU referendum: "If you vote 'in' on June 23, you are kissing goodbye permanently to control of immigration. You are voting for the current situation not only to continue but to get worse." At that point, net migration — the difference between people coming and going — was 335,000. In a couple of weeks, seven years after Johnson's solemn declaration, new figures are expected to show net migration at around double that figure. Last year for every person in an illegal small boat, the government welcomed 24 legally, most from outside the EU.

Another triumph for the Brexit delivery department, which you may recall from Sunak's leadership campaign video featured a large shredder into which he would feed 2,400 nasty EU laws. Except now he won't. "Labour talks," Sunak likes to boast. "And the Conservatives deliver." But they don't. Not on boats, or inflation, or Brexit, or housing, or the NHS, or levelling up … or …

No wonder despondent Tories are looking to someone who can quietly carry out their duties without incident. Penny Mordaunt holding a sword for an hour is apparently now qualification to be the next prime minister. (Although we can't overlook the fact that if it had been Truss she would have stuck the sword in her foot and then accidentally decapitated the King.) It is only a matter of time before someone suggests dispatching Mordaunt and her sword to puncture the dinghies. Anything to provide a distraction.

Never forget courage of the Dambusters

The 1943 raid was not the triumph we long believed but that shouldn't lessen admiration for Guy Gibson and his men

Max Hastings



It is that blasted dog's name that has done it. For well over half a century, the achievement of the RAF's 617 Squadron in wrecking two of Germany's great dams with Barnes Wallis's bouncing bombs was central to Britain's legend of the Second World War.

But as we approach the 80th anniversary of the Dambusters' raid on Tuesday, embarrassment and indeed controversy overhang commemorations. RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, from which the raid was launched, is threatened with becoming an illegal immigrants' holding centre. Realisation that the 1943 attack inflicted only temporary damage on Ruhr industry, while drowning some 700 hapless slave labourers alongside the same number of Germans, makes the achievement of Guy Gibson's squadron seem less than the unqualified, guilt-free triumph which headlines proclaimed at the time.

And we are no longer permitted to mention the name of Gibson's dog, affectionately shared with thousands of black labradors in those innocent days, but now deemed to epitomise contemporary British racism.

It all seems rather sad to those of us who grew up with the legend; who have watched a hundred times on celluloid Richard Todd, as Gibson, leading his squadron into what was known from the outset to be a near-suicide mission, and indeed killed almost half the 19 Avro Lancaster crews who carried it out.

Perhaps this is how warrior epics always turn out. We are told, for instance, that the most we can nowadays say about the alleged heroic sacrifice of 300 Spartans at Thermopylae in 480BC is that there may have been a king named Leonidas, who possibly perished in a battle against the Persians that might have taken place near the pass.

Yet at this anniversary of Operation Chastise, as the Dambusters' raid was codenamed, let us make the case for the legend. Let us consider the reasons why it seems to some of us — and I wrote a book about it — right to continue to celebrate what those men did above the dams on the night of May 16-17, worthy of the admiration of us, their descendants, though most of them perished before they could enjoy the privilege of rearing their own children.

ALAMY



Guy Gibson, above left, with other members of 617 Squadron just after the raid of May 16-17, 1943, immortalised in the 1955 film The Dam Busters



In May 1943 Bomber Command was killing nightly hundreds, and soon thousands, of civilians in so-called "area attacks" on German cities. The dams raid was conceived as a precision mission against Ruhr water supplies, which the great engineer Barnes Wallis believed could inflict a crippling blow on industrial output. Bomber Command's chief Sir Arthur Harris, christened "Bomber" by Churchill but known to his crews as "Butch", opposed the raid as a distraction from his cities campaign. Many senior airmen also thought it wildly unreasonable to ask young airmen, many of them relatively inexperienced, to bomb the dams in darkness from an altitude of 60ft.

Guy Gibson, whom Harris nominated to command the attack when he reluctantly accepted responsibility for it, was a tragic superman. Just 24, he had already flown 72 bomber operations, three or four times as many as most pilots survived. Nobody much liked the little "boy emperor", as some ground crews dubbed him. He was cocky, driven, ruthless in his pursuit of girls and glory. Some expert airmen deemed him less of a virtuoso pilot than "Hoppy" Hopgood and Micky Martin, two of the bombing veterans whom he co-opted for the dams.

He was a superlative leader, however. It is hard to overstate what he achieved in the mere six weeks between assuming command and taking off for Chastise, driving his crews to the limits and beyond, to attain the proficiency indispensable to give any chance of success.

To me, one of the most profoundly moving aspects of Chastise, and indeed of the whole bomber war, is that if we divorce the conduct of the aircrew from the enduring moral controversy, as we should, it is wonderful that so many showed themselves so committed to their country, and to winning the war, that they repeatedly set forth on missions that they knew were actuarially likely to result in their deaths.

The most cynical aspect of Chastise was that industrial experts warned the RAF chiefs that, to make a serious impact on Ruhr industry, it was essential to empty not only the Möhne reservoir, but also the nearby Sorpe. The latter, however, was built of earth rather than masonry, much less vulnerable to Wallis's bombs. But the mission to which so many big people were now committed went ahead anyway, with the Eder dam and others which had little to do with Ruhr industry added to the target list simply because they were deemed destructible.

On the night, 133 airmen set out in waves for Germany, flying at deck level all the way — one crew perished after hitting power cables — to avoid fighters. Five Lancasters were lost to misfortune and gunfire before getting anywhere near the dams.

The remainder pressed home their attacks with an ice-cold courage that invites our awe. The Möhne and Eder were broken; the Sorpe survived, despite noble efforts by two crews which overflew it repeatedly, to achieve precise accuracy.

The survivors came home to receive national adulation and Guy Gibson a richly deserved VC. Most,

> They repeatedly set forth on missions likely to result in their deaths

Gibson included, were killed later in the war. The wonderful Barnes Wallis's bombs were never used again, because the casualty rate was too brutal, German defences too much improved. And too many doubts were raised about the economic value of smashing dams.

It is a reality of all wars that the real achievement of some great acts of courage is often shorted in historians' profit-and-loss accounts. I believe that Chastise was narrowly worth its human cost because of the terrific boost it provided to British civilian morale at a bad time; the real shock it inflicted on the Germans; and the lift to British prestige in sceptical American eyes.

What 617 Squadron did on that moonlit night remains a wonderful feat of arms, in which the British people should continue to take pride. And for God's sake, let nobody think ill of that poor dog.

Max Hastings is the author of Chastise: The Dambusters Story 1943, published by William Collins

WEEKEND ESSAY

By degree, we're losing touch with humanity

English literature is dying as indebted university students flock to science and technology courses, but in the age of AI we need culture more than ever, writes **James Marriott**



On a grey day, the campus of the University of Warwick has the appearance of a benign North Korea. It's something to do with the too-wide communal spaces, the huge institutional buildings and the heavy sky. Christopher Tang, who is studying English literature and creative writing, shows me around the university's arts centre. A cinema, a concert hall, a crowd of frantic students printing off essays from the communal printers. The inexpert janglings of Warwick's amateur pianists emanate from the practice rooms upstairs.

University artistic life seems to be proceeding as normal, but there are shadows of unease. Tang is the author of a lucid essay for the student newspaper, The Tab, which lamented the rise of a science-worshipping campus environment in which "English literature degrees are constantly demeaned and degraded".

And, indeed, his generation of English literature undergraduates is studying in the midst of an unprecedented crisis in the humanities. The number of degrees awarded in history and history of art have fallen by almost a third in a decade. Degrees in foreign languages declined by almost 40 per cent in the same period. In 2021, 14 British universities accepted "virtually no" students to study any foreign language.

The decline of English studies is most striking. A decade ago when I left school, English was the most popular A-level. Today it is no longer in the top ten, outranked by the likes of sociology, psychology and business studies. Between 2011 and 2021, the number of students studying English at university fell by a third. The subject is, in the view of one Russell Group academic, experiencing "a rapid, almost terminal decline". Universities cancel their English degrees almost annually. Last year Sheffield Hallam did so; the year before it was Cumbria. Even well-established institutions are threatened. Birkbeck University, founded in 1821, is home to one of the most renowned English departments in the country. Last year the university announced plans to fire half that department's staff.



Among lecturers a mood of despair is taking hold. "It would make you weep," one senior academic tells me. The number of undergraduates studying English literature at her university has fallen from about 200 ten years ago to 30 today. "Everyone's worrying about student numbers," another lecturer in English tells me. The mood in his department is "hysterical".

The decline in English literature is most shocking because the subject was so prestigious for so long and because literature is so central to Britain's cultural self-image. If the British genius has expressed itself comparatively rarely in the arts of musical composition or painting, we are able to boast perhaps the richest literary tradition in the world as the land of Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton and Dickens. Now we face not only a crisis of arts education but of cultural identity. What is a Britain in which nobody reads Shakespeare or Dickens?

The great modern flowering of the humanities took place in the decades after the Second World War. Ambitious students, paying no fees, flocked to new "plate glass" universities such as Sussex, York and Lancaster where they took possession of the prestigious cultural knowledge that had once been the preserve of a tiny social elite. "Like homing pigeons, to a loft we knew only from hearsay, we headed for the humanities and above all for literature," remembered the critic Richard Hoggart, a working-class grammar school boy who won a scholarship to Leeds University. The optimism of that time is preserved in Kenneth Clark's 1969 television programme *Civilisation*, a sweeping survey of the history of Western culture. The last episode featured the concrete ziggurats of the newly opened University of East Anglia set to a soundtrack of ecstatic choral music. Culture, Lord Clark reassured viewers, was in the safest possible hands: "I should doubt if so many people have been as well read, as bright minded and as critical as the young are today."

A cultural education was held to be spiritually, morally and even politically improving. In his book *The Liberal Imagination*, a bestseller in 1950, the American critic Lionel Trilling argued that literary study cultivated a sympathy for the individual that was essential to the flourishing of a liberal society — a vaccine against the inhumanity of ideology. "Literature," Trilling wrote, "is the human activity that takes fullest and most precise account of variousness, possibility, complexity and difficulty."

Students responded to this mood of idealism. In 1967, 86 per cent of new undergraduates listed "developing a meaningful philosophy of life" as a "very important" or "essential" personal goal.

Today, claims for spiritual or moral virtues of the humanities are just so much rhetorical garnish — an addendum to the anxious reassurance that English offers commercially valuable "transferable skills" such as critical thinking. A vindictive mood of Gradgrindian rationality prevails. When the government announced last year that universities offering "low-value" degrees would be financially penalised, there was no question that "low value" referred to "value for money", not "value for the soul".

Almost all the academics I speak to mention the coalition government's decision to increase tuition fees to £9,000 a year in 2010 as a turning point. Modern teenagers are faced with the second most expensive degrees in the world after the United States. Student loan repayments mean a graduate earning more than £26,575 a year faces an effective marginal tax rate of 41 per cent. For those earning £50,000 a year it climbs to 51 per cent. Confronting these punishing conditions, as well as extortionate rents and falling living standards, students have flocked to the perceived economic safe havens of Stem subjects (science, technology, engineering and maths).



Solly McLeod and Sophie Wilde in the ITV reimagining of Henry Fielding's 1749 novel Tom Jones. Times have changed since Kenneth Clark, left, at the new University of East Anglia, predicted a bright future for culture in his 1969 BBC series, Civilisation

However, as Hetan Shah, the chief executive of the arts charity The British Academy, points out, the assumption that sciences are vastly more profitable is false. In Britain, humanities and social science graduates earn £35,360 a year on average and graduates of Stem subjects £38,272. "We have a slightly misplaced view of what our economy is like," says Shah. "We're a services economy. We're not Germany." Creative industries make up 6 per cent of the British economy. The rise of artificial intelligence systems such as ChatGPT threatens not only writers and artists but also coders. Some careers that require mathematical skills "will be mopped up quite fast by AI", he says. "Employers are increasingly looking for critical and creative thinking." Harry Shum, a senior AI researcher at Microsoft, has written that, "as computers behave more like humans, the social sciences and humanities will become even more important".

The decline of the humanities is a worldwide story. Student numbers have dropped equally dramatically in the US. According to the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, four fifths of its member countries report falling enrolment in arts subjects. The common factor is the technological revolution precipitated by the launch of the iPhone in 2008. Ever since, books have had to compete with ubiquitous digital distractions. A 2020 study found a "sharp decline" in reading. More than half of British adults say they haven't read a single book in the past year.

Academics agree that the past ten years have seen a

ITV


decline in their students' capacity to engage with long texts. Many arrive at university having never studied whole novels or plays at school, only extracts or scenes. One university head of department tells me: "I used to expect students to easily read a novel in a week and I just can't expect that any more." The impossibility of getting students to concentrate means classic novels are falling off syllabuses. "We used to teach *Middlemarch*. We don't any more," she says. "There was a time when I used to attempt to teach *Ulysses*. Now I just don't bother." Recently she's been teaching Ralph Ellison's 600-page classic of African-American literature *Invisible Man* but, "I can guarantee not one of my students will have finished it."

A young academic who teaches English at Bristol University, says: "It's not true that everything is getting worse and everyone is dumber than they used to be. But what is the case is that we are less a reading culture than a watching culture. Students are more interested in Netflix series than the traditional literary canon." It is now common for lecturers to introduce a book with a film adaptation to make it seem "less forbidding for students" for whom the novel increasingly seems a "rarefied form". But can adaptations aid the study of literature? Think how different ITV's current adaptation of *Tom Jones* is from Henry Fielding's 18th century novel. Another academic says she has given up delivering hour-long lectures. Students can only deal with 20-minute chunks.

Even the students themselves agree with this pessimistic assessment. Over coffee in the Warwick campus's bustling Pret a Manger, Tang says: "The rise of social media has definitely affected the way I read things. My attention span has gone downhill ever since I've been on TikTok." Tang speaks enthusiastically about Ocean Vuong, James Baldwin and Sylvia Plath but tells me that he finds "the traditional parts of my degree" such as "medieval and renaissance literature" to be "the most boring". He opted out of the modules on Victorian fiction. Were they popular, I ask. "No." He laughs apologetically at my expression of despair. "Everyone hated it."

To those who spent their teens online, literature seems much less culturally central and prestigious than it did even 20 years ago. It is no longer obvious to many students that novels and poetry should be singled out for exhaustive study. Tang says his favourite projects included an essay on the Netflix superhero show *The Boys* and a study of a video poem. Another Warwick student, Oscar, tells me that "literature isn't just books — if you study theatre there's no reason why you shouldn't study TV". Their professors are thinking along the same lines. Stephen Greenblatt, the doyen of Renaissance studies, recently told *The New Yorker* that more English departments should think about teaching television shows such as *The Wire* and *Chernobyl*.

To many conservatives, such developments would doubtless confirm an impression of arts degrees as the new Mickey Mouse subjects: intellectually soft and economically irrelevant. But there is also a new hostility to the humanities from the left. Among progressives, once important guardians of high culture against the philistinism of consumer capitalism, there is a mood of suspicion towards the heroes of the Western canon, founded on their implication in the racist and sexist societies of their time. Visitors to art galleries will be familiar with the genre of censorious picture captions which effortfully associate even the most blameless of watercolourists with the historical sins of empire. Whatever useful political idealism such signage inspires, it risks damaging the prestige of the humanities. In the 1960s, culture was associated with elite status as well as spiritual and moral improvement. Many modern students must wonder: where is the glamour in studying the work of dead gammons?

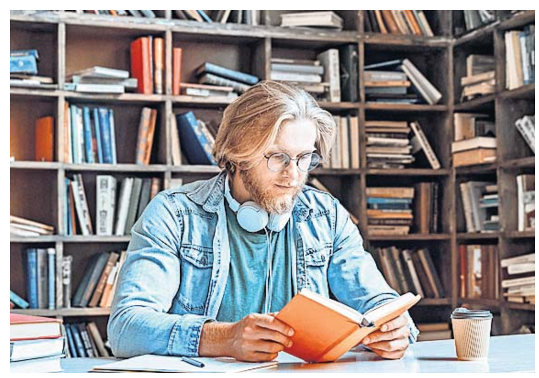
> There is a mood of suspicion towards heroes of the western canon, rooted in the racist and sexist societies of their time

One young academic working at a prestigious Russell Group university worries about the "Americanisation of the British academy" and the ensuing politicisation of literature. He says that to secure funding it's helpful to link one's research to a fashionable political theme, such as gender, the environment or the currently popular trend for "digital humanities". The problem, he says, is that "it's always literature *and* something [the environment, racism, gender]. It's always the thing that literature is attached to that's carrying the value."

Though anathema to traditionalists, a more politically aware approach to literature has many student advocates. Oscar tells me he finds his course off-puttingly "occidental". A degree in only "English" literature strikes him as pointlessly limited. "I'm not saying that English isn't wonderful but there's so much more out there. I think it's crazy that English literature is still used as a title for a degree when 'comparative' literature works just as well, or just 'literature'."

One academic I spoke to fears that the fashionable new emphasis on politics leads to a dead end. "Literary academics have ceded a fundamental principle and tried to redescribe literary scholarship as a form of political activism." The problem is that "in a world where the reading public is slowly diminishing, any political activism that is founded on the study of literary texts is wishing itself into irrelevance. Why study literature if you can just study politics?"

The decline in the humanities is not felt by all universities equally. Academics at Oxford and Cambridge have noticed little change in the quality or quantity of their students. Seamus Perry, formerly head of Oxford's English faculty, says English applications have dipped from just over 1,000 ten years ago to just under 1,000 today, a statistically insignificant change. His students are "as engaged,



clever and sparky as they always have been". Dickens is perhaps less read than he once was but you can walk into any first-year seminar and "there's no one in the room who hasn't read Austen".

This points to a possible future for the humanities as a smaller, more elite discipline. The historian and podcaster Dominic Sandbrook suggests that English literature may become "the classics of the 21st century" — a subject "dominated by upper middle class, privately educated students for whom it's a badge of prestige to know about poetry". An alternative future for the discipline, he suggests, is "woke studies", in which a focus on cutting-edge race and gender theory replaces old-fashioned textual analysis. The future of history is probably less woke, Sandbrook reckons, because, in history there will always be a few doughty nerds "who are interested in pikemen".

The decline of humanities at universities is one aspect of a growing political indifference or even hostility to culture that encompasses the defunding of orchestras and choirs, the closure of libraries and falling gallery attendance. News stories are easy to overlook individually, but they add up to an existential threat to the experiences that are among the most profound available to human beings.

A country in which nobody remembers or understands art or literature or music would be a poorer and sadder place. Dame Mary Beard, who has been fighting for her embattled subject, classics, for decades says it is precisely the dreariness of that dystopian prospect that should prove motivational: "Do we want a world where no one can read Homer or understand Monteverdi? Only a very tiny minority would think that. So let's shout about it."

My Week Penny Mordaunt*

Monday
"You can put it down now," says the prime minister.

"Nah," I say.

We're in Downing Street for an emergency bank holiday cabinet meeting.

Everybody is still reeling after the local elections, but Rishi says my appearance at the coronation might have made up for it. So he's wondering if he should give me a new role.

"How about your role?" I say, hefting my sword.

"Hahaha!" says Rishi, quite desperately.

"She could help with cuts!" says Jeremy Hunt, but everyone ignores him.

Michael Gove says defence would be the obvious option.

"Shut up," says Ben Wallace. "Swords are nothing. I've got tanks."

"Maybe I should ride a tank?" I suggest.

Robert Jenrick makes a strange noise.

"Now let's not be hasty," says Ben, going pale.

"Honestly," says Suella Braverman, "I don't understand the fuss. What's so special about just standing there on telly not saying anything?"

"You should try it," suggests Michael.

"Maybe she could help with cuts!" says Jeremy, again.

"Shut up, Jeremy," says Rishi.

Tuesday
"I honestly think you could do absolutely anything," says my special adviser.

"Are you just saying that," I ask him, "because I'm still holding this sword?"

"Not entirely," he says.

Then he says the offers have been flooding in. Sponsorships, adverts, telly, everything.

"Only," I say, "if it's really dignified."

"Because of the diving thing?" he says.

"Careful," I say, tapping my hilt.

"Or," he says, "the odds say you could just hang on and be the next Tory leader for sure. Bookmakers have slashed them."

"Huh," I say. "They've got one, too?"

Wednesday
To the House of Commons for PMQs, where only the serjeant at arms is allowed a sword. I thought he might make an exception for me. But apparently, there can be only one.

Afterwards, the PM sends me to speak to the Archbishop of Canterbury. We spent a lot of time together at the coronation, so Rishi thought I could exploit that connection to persuade him to relax his opposition to the Rwanda deal.

"Look, Justin," I say. "We need to stop small boats."

"Are you going to puncture them?" says the archbishop, warily.

Actually that's not a bad idea.

"I'm sorry," he says, "but I can't stay silent. This policy lacks compassion. And don't most of your colleagues worship Jesus Christ?"

"They used to," I say, flexing my arms a bit.

Thursday
Back into Downing Street. Mark Harper and Kemi Badenoch are here, too.

"Ah!" says Rishi. "Our secret weapon!"

"Not that secret," says Mark. "She keeps waving it around."

"Get to the point," snaps Kemi.

"Actually I'm trying to stay away from the point," says Rishi, ducking.

Then he says they need to speak to me about strikes. And I say it's a bit soon for that, because I haven't hit anyone yet. Although then he says he means the rail strikes.

And they've all decided that I'm exactly the sort of person they need to get trains moving again.

"And I can take the sword?" I say.

"Oh you must," says Rishi.

"But she'll need to put it down," says Mark, "to press all the buttons."

"You've misunderstood," says Rishi.



Friday
Apparently Elon Musk has appointed a formidable woman to run Twitter. We're trying to find out if it's me.

"Listen, Penny," says Rishi. "You've got a real future here. Nobody thinks you're a lightweight any more. We now all recognise that you're a charismatic figure of strength."

"But I could have beaten you in an arm-wrestle before I even picked this thing up," I remind him.

"Fair point," says Rishi.

Then he says his latest plan is to get me out on the world stage.

Representing Britain. As Britannia incarnate. Minus the helmet. Although I should get one of those, too.

"For example," he says, "this court business with Donald Trump has made him really toxic. And it makes you think all the rumours about him are true. But sooner or later, one of us is going to have to meet with him again. And I think it should be you."

"And I should take the sword?" I ask, again.

"Or a can of mace," shrugs Rishi. "Your call."

**according to Hugo Rifkind*

T AUDIO

Eurovision 2023: a very political song contest

Tonight the UK is hosting this year's Eurovision Song Contest on behalf of Ukraine whilst the war continues. So what can we expect? What role is Eurovision playing in the war effort? And why have cyber security experts been drafted in?

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Archbishop is convicted of speeding in his Golf

Ali Mitib

The Archbishop of Canterbury has been convicted of speeding, days after he presided over the coronation.

The Most Rev Justin Welby, 67, drove at 25mph in a 20mph zone in his Volkswagen Golf last October. He was on the Albert Embankment in London on his way to his official residence at Lambeth Palace, the Evening Standard reported.

The archbishop admitted the offence and was prosecuted at a private hearing on Wednesday, where he was told to pay £510 in fines and costs, and given three penalty points.

Lambeth Palace said he had not been notified that the case had gone to court. A spokeswoman said: "He has tried to resolve this and pay the fine three times. He has all the paperwork to prove that he has tried to pay. Admin errors seem to be causing problems."

Welby was convicted on the day that he used a speech in the House of Lords to denounce government plans to tackle illegal immigration as "morally unacceptable and politically impractical". Documents seen by the Standard show that the police wrote to Welby after he triggered the speed camera. He admitted driving the vehicle. The Albert Embankment, on the south side of the Thames, has had a 20mph limit for three years.

The notice of intended prosecution was addressed to "Arch Justin Welby", giving his home address as Lambeth Palace, while the single justice procedure letter, sent in March, starts "Dear Welby". Andrew Chapman, a police worker, said in a statement to the court: "On 02/10/2022 at 11.05am at A3036 Albert Embankment a motor vehicle activated a speed camera. The speed recorded by means of Redspeed Speedcurb was 25mph."



Justin Welby had tried to pay the fine three times, Lambeth Palace said

Welby pleaded guilty online. A magistrate at Lavender Hill court decided the case based on written evidence in a private hearing.

A court official said the financial penalty was to be made up of a £300 fine, a £120 victim surcharge and £90 in costs.

The Metropolitan Police would not comment on whether the archbishop was offered the chance to take a speed awareness course instead of being prosecuted.

Welby's conviction comes a month after Robert Jenrick, the immigration minister, was banned from driving for six months and fined more than £1,500 after driving at 68mph in a temporary 40mph zone on the M1 in Northamptonshire in August. Jenrick admitted the offence in February and apologised.

Greek PM wants a marbles 'win-win'

Constance Kampfner

The Greek prime minister has ruled out a loan of the Elgin Marbles and repeated calls for a "win-win" solution to the ownership dispute.

Possession of the 2,500-year-old sculptures has been a source of rancour between Britain and Greece ever since Lord Elgin took them from the Parthenon in 1801 and sold them to the British government, which gave them to the British Museum.

More than 75 metres of the Parthenon frieze, as well as 17 pedimental figures, have been housed at the museum ever since. The Greek government first made a formal request for their return in 1983.

"We will never recognise that these sculptures are owned — legally owned — by the British Museum," Kyriakos Mitsotakis, the Greek prime minister, said in an interview during an election campaign stop in the central city of Volos. "But again, we have to be constructive and we have to be innovative if a solution is to be found."

His government has been in talks over the marbles with UK officials. George Osborne, the former chancellor who is now chairman of the British Museum, said in January the talks had been "constructive" and the two countries were working on a deal that would allow the sculptures to be displayed in London and Athens.

British law prevents antiquities being given away by museums. Under the agreement, objects would be sent to Athens from London on a long-term loan in exchange for other ancient Greek treasures being lent to the British Museum.

Asked whether Greece might consider taking back the sculptures as a loan, Mitsotakis was categorical. "No, no," he said. "That word 'loan' is not part of . . . what I consider a win-win solution."

Dig deep to buy Stone Age cavern home

Kieran Gair

The thought of living in a cave may have you recalling scenes from the classic cartoon *The Flintstones*.

Yet the next owner of Kents Cavern in Torquay, Devon, will find their home bears little resemblance to the humble abode occupied by Fred and Wilma Flintstone and their daughter, Pebbles.

Billed by the estate agents as "Britain's oldest home", the attraction is said to be the most important prehistoric cave complex in Britain, with a "long and rich record of ancient human occupation".

But unlike the modest Stone Age lifestyle led by the Flintstone family, Kents Cavern has all the trappings of luxury, including a fully refurbished three-bedroom holiday cottage, a shop and a 100-seat restaurant.

The two-acre site has been open to the public since the 19th century and in the ownership of the same family for 120 years. Now it has been put up for sale for £2.5 million. The site includes a network of caves that feature stalagmites and stalactites, a collection of full-size replica Ice Age creatures, and an acre of woodland trails.

Archaeologists found more than 80,000 artefacts linked to human and animal occupation in the cave, including stone tools belonging to *Homo erectus* and *Homo heidelbergensis*, Neanderthal hand axes and the remains of hyenas, cave bears, cave lions, scimitar-toothed cats, woolly mammoths and woolly rhinos. The site has since welcomed millions of human visitors, even hosting a pop-up cinema, yoga sessions and weddings.

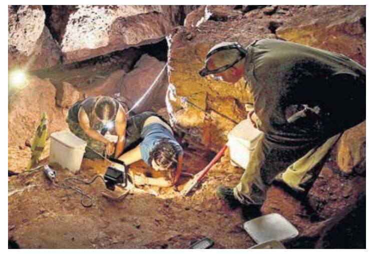
Bettesworths estate agents, the company handling the sale, said: "Britain's first Stone Age people reached Kents Cavern 500,000 years ago.

"Neanderthals used the caverns around 100,000 years ago and the oldest human remains in northwestern Europe were discovered there."

The cavern was turned into a tourist attraction in the early 1900s, when concrete paths were laid alongside the installation of electric lighting and facilities for visitors.

Kents Cavern was also the inspiration for Agatha Christie's 1924 novel *The Man in the Brown Suit*.

The main activity at the site is a guided cave tour, which operates every day of the year.



Kents Cavern in Torquay is on the market for more than £2 million

Kents Cavern is part of the English Riviera Unesco Global Geopark, which covers Torbay, Torquay, Paignton and Brixham. In the past two decades, the site has had more than £1 million invested in its visitor experience.

The caves have been owned by the Powe family since 1903, when the current owner's great-grandfather George Smerdon acquired the site. The owner now wants to retire after running the attraction for 23 years, with the next generation "not in a position to dedicate themselves to the business".

Located only a mile from Torquay town centre, the site is being marketed at a guide price of between £2 million and £2.5 million. Matt Bettesworth, the managing director of Bettesworths and the agent for the sale, said: "What a fantastic chance to purchase a very different but hugely successful freehold business with extensive assets."



Hot trend for return of the leg warmer

Ballet dancers wear them with tutus and slippers; Jane Fonda made them uniform for aerobics fans. These days you are more likely to wear leg warmers under wellies than with a leotard, but luxury brands are putting them back on the catwalk (Hannah Rogers writes).

At Chanel's Eighties-tastic Cruise show in Los Angeles on Tuesday, nearly every model wore a pair of soon-to-be must-have leg warmers, which came sequin-studded, baseball pin-striped and stamped with the label's logo. They will not be on sale until November, but the label has form with haute hosiery. It once stocked a pair of tights for £315 and has crystal-embellished black socks priced at £770. From New York to Paris, leg warmers are teamed not with gym kit but mini skirts, bare legs and heels. These are not designed to get physical in. They are dry-clean only and best suited to life in a tissue-lined box. Prada's technical nylon take might sound sporty, but they cost £230.

The reality TV stars and influencers Bella Hadid and Kendall Jenner model them on Instagram. The pop star Billie Eilish wears them, too. They are cropping up at fashion week front rows and they are trending on TikTok: videos tagged #legwarmers have more than 280 million views.

If you do not want this trend to cost you an arm and a leg, they are on the high street too; Urban Outfitters has versions from £18. It might still leave you with cold feet, though.





The trend for leg warmers, once beloved of Jane Fonda, has been revived by fashion bloggers. Prada's nylon version costs £230

GCHQ chief's parting shot reveals a secret bond with 007

Seren Hughes

The name's Fleming … Jeremy Ian Fleming.

In his role as the director of GCHQ, Fleming spoke openly about the work of the intelligence agencies, but he kept his personal life very well hidden, as any good spy chief would. However, in a denouement worthy of a James Bond novel, Fleming chose his final day in the top job to reveal a personal detail that links him to the world's favourite spy.

The spy chief signed off a tribute to his colleagues as Sir Jeremy Ian Fleming, revealing for the first time his middle name and the link to Ian Fleming, the author of the Bond novels.

Fleming wrote: "Thank you, for all you have done and the vital roles you continue to play. I am forever grateful. Sir Jeremy Ian Fleming."

The parallels between the two Flemings go beyond their names. Both worked in finance early in their working lives — Jeremy Fleming spent his early career in the financial sector, while the Bond author worked for the merchant bank Cull & Co in the 1930s.

Jeremy Fleming joined MI5 in 1993. Since becoming director of GCHQ in 2017, he responded to incidents including the Russian hacking of western researchers developing the coronavirus vaccine and the invasion of Ukraine.

As an author, Ian Fleming drew from his own experiences working in intelligence. He was a senior officer in the Royal Navy's Naval Intelligence Department, where he was instrumental in helping to organise several spy missions including the famous Operation Mincemeat.

It is one thing to share a name with the author of the Bond novels, but it is a whole different challenge to live up to the name of 007 himself. A new documentary, *The Other Fellow*, tells the stories of the men who are blessed or cursed to be named James Bond.



Sir Jeremy Fleming joined the security service in 1993

James Neil Bond, a retired preacher from Texas, told *Today* on Radio 4 that his name allowed him extra attention when he wrote on the shuttle bus he used to drive: "Your driver is none other than Bond, James Bond." Another James Bond in London took his partner's name to escape all the references and jokes.

In Jeremy Fleming's parting note, which was shared on the GCHQ Twitter page, he wrote: "I'm proud of the way you have — and still are — reinventing GCHQ for an age where tech, cyber and geopolitics are central to the UK's security and prosperity.

"Of course, there's more to do — there always is! But I know that this team, all of you, are up to the task. I will be cheering from the sidelines, knowing there will be brilliant people doing their best to keep the country safe."

‘I don’t agree with him but I could

Rachel Reeves is planning to be the first female chancellor and wants to do things differently, she tells **Steven Swinford** and **Henry Zeffman**

When Rachel Reeves was a child her father never let her win at chess. Determined to foster a competitive spirit, he would consistently beat her as she was learning to play — until, that is, she turned eight and was too good for him. “He never beat me again after, apart from once when I made a silly blunder,” she recalls.

With her own children, a daughter aged ten and a son aged seven, Reeves, who was a national chess champion at the age of 14, takes a more generous approach and occasionally lets them win, although it is clear that it pains her. “I never thought I would but I do,” she says. “And I hate it. I’m not proud of this. But it just feels a bit too harsh.”

The shadow chancellor is a relentless competitor, an ethic she traces in part to the state schools she attended in south London. “I wasn’t going to get the grades I got and the university I got to without working really hard,” she says. “It wasn’t what was expected of girls like me in places where I grew up. And I was only going to achieve that through hard work. I wanted to do well so I put in the hours.” It is an approach she has taken throughout her career. “Use what you’ve got,” she says. “My mum and dad actually really drummed that into me. If you’ve got talents, don’t waste them. You’ve actually got a responsibility to use them and make a difference.”

Reeves, 44, now stands on the cusp of doing just that by becoming the first female chancellor of the exchequer. As throughout her life, Reeves has done her homework, including taking advice from the most recent person to make the transition from shadow chancellor to 11 Downing Street: George Osborne.

While the pair are far from political soulmates — Osborne’s programme of austerity “killed off the economic recovery” and left public services in a “parlous state”, Reeves says — there is a mutual respect. Osborne recently told The Times that Reeves was “well on the way” to becoming the next chancellor and was “more than capable of governing the country”.

Reeves, in turn, is interested in what he has to say.

“I do want to listen to and learn from what Osborne did and what Gordon Brown did before that: winning that argument from opposition about the economy and then making that transition to being chancellor. So I might not agree with him, but I’m pleased that he sees me as somebody who is also on the way to making that journey.”

She sees the prospect of becoming the first woman in charge of the nation’s finances as a “responsibility as well as being an exciting moment”. There have, she suggests, been “unconscious biases” in how men have approached politics and the economy, with significant policies such as equal pay legislation championed and driven through by women. Past chancellors have “put a hard hat and a high-vis jacket on” to illustrate policies on productivity, whereas Reeves says she would focus more on “lack of access to childcare” and problems with social care as well as infrastructure. She aspires to become the chancellor who closes the gender pay gap.

Reeves’s political values are reflected in her priorities for her own family. Both her children attend a local state school, a decision she has taken out of principle. Would she ever consider sending her children to private school? “No I wouldn’t,” she says, before adding diplomatically: “But people make lots of different decisions for why they send their children to different schools.”

She gives an emphatic defence of the state system over private — despite admitting that pupils attending private schools enjoy an inherent advantage. “I really believe in state services,” she says. “And I want my children to go to school with children from all different types of backgrounds and have an understanding of the world around them. I went to a state school and I did really well. I want my children to have to work for what they achieve in life. I don’t want my children to be at a school where everybody has parents who earn enough to send them there. That’s not what the world is like. I want them to see the world as it is.”

Private schools have become one of the starkest divides between Labour and the Conservatives. Sir Keir Starmer’s determination to levy VAT on private school fees elicited an impassioned defence of the independent sector last year from Rishi Sunak, who accused Labour of attacking aspiration.

“Oh no it really isn’t,” Reeves says.



Rachel Reeves says she wants to make

“It’s the exact opposite. I am really aspirational for kids from all backgrounds, and I believe there’s huge talent out there that at the moment too often goes to waste. We would use every penny of that money to invest in our state schools.”

Reeves jousted with Sunak at the dispatch box for 14 months when he was chancellor, but the experience did not leave her with a personal affinity for him. “It was a bit weird to be honest. I’ve never shadowed anybody and not had their telephone number or any conversation or dialogue.” When Jeremy Hunt became chancellor, “I got a text message that day or the next day — I never had that with Sunak.” She sidesteps questions about Sunak’s personal wealth but nevertheless says he is not “in touch with the country”.

The prime minister, she says, “just doesn’t seem to get what’s going on in Britain at the moment”. In the Commons this week, she recounts, an MP “said no one can get an NHS dentist. The prime minister stands up and says: ‘We’ve never had so many dentists, we’ve put more money into dentistry than ever before.’ Has he ever tried to get an NHS dentist?

“Or someone will say, I’ve got families in my constituency where both parents are in work, but they’re really struggling to make ends meet. They don’t know how they’re going to pay the energy bills. He’ll stand up and he’ll say: ‘We’ve never given so

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learn a lot from George Osborne’

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Labour the party of fiscal responsibility and economic credibility and be the chancellor who closes the gender pay gap

Rachel Jane Reeves

Curriculum vitae

Born 13 February, 1979

Educated Cator Park School for Girls in Bromley; studied philosophy, politics and economics at New College, Oxford; MSc in economics from the London School of Economics.

Career She joined the Bank of England as an economist after graduating. Left in 2006 to join HBOS in Leeds after turning down a job at Goldman Sachs. Selected as the member for the safe seat of Leeds West in 2010. Served in various shadow ministerial roles under Ed Miliband and was appointed shadow chancellor in 2021, replacing Anneliese Dodds.

Family Married to Nicholas Joicey, a senior civil servant. They have two children.

Quick fire

Eurovision final or Beyoncé? I’d much prefer the Beyoncé Renaissance tour (below) but I’ll be watching Eurovision



Garry Kasparov or Magnus Carlsen? Kasparov. He’s absolutely brilliant. We played chess and he beat me. It didn’t take very long

South London or Leeds? Oh my God. Leeds

Rishi Sunak or Jeremy Hunt? Jeremy Hunt. I think he’s got better manners

Tony Blair or Sir Keir Starmer? Keir Starmer. We are in 2023 and the challenges of the time are different and Keir’s the person for this moment

much support to people.’ He just seems so out of touch all the time.”

Despite her zeal to oust Sunak, Reeves is eager to manage expectations about the pace of change under Labour. “I think it will take a decade to turn around the economy and public services,” she says. “I would love to say vote Labour and the next month our public services will be functioning again, and our economy will be firing on all cylinders, and the cost of living crisis will be over. The damage that the Tories have done in the last 13 years is going to make the job of an incoming Labour government difficult. It’ll be a real challenge. We’re not going to be able to do everything straight away.”

At an event at the US embassy this week, Reeves found jokes from American dignitaries about Liz Truss’s premiership “really embarrassing”. She says she wants to “restore our economic dignity in the world”, and will visit Washington later this month to meet economists.

Her economic pitch is all about fiscal responsibility, a phrase that peppers her interview. The task is to banish memories of the Liam Byrne “there is no money” note in 2010 — “Liam should never have written that note. It was supposed to be light-hearted but it’s obviously not funny,” she says — and instead “make Labour the party of fiscal responsibility and economic credibility”.

Reeves says the tax burden has become too high but that the route out of this is “growing the economy” rather than the “unfunded tax cuts” pursued briefly and disastrously by Liz Truss. “Any economic policy for growth has got to be built on economic stability and fiscal responsibility,” she says. “You’ve got to say where the money’s going to come from if you say you’re going to cut taxes, and my plan is to grow the economy.”

Earlier this month Starmer made clear that he had abandoned a pledge from his leadership campaign to raise income tax for the top 5 per cent of earners. In the future, Reeves says, she would “like the tax burden on working people to be lower”. Asked whether she would rule out increasing capital gains tax, she says: “We’ve got the highest tax burden now in 70 years. I don’t have a big desire to make that burden higher.”

But she makes clear she is more sympathetic to cutting income tax eventually, adding: “When I look at in the future, as resources allow, how can we bring down the tax burden, my priority is working people.”

Privately, some members of the shadow cabinet chafe at Reeves’s disciplined approach. They question whether the relatively limited plans on tax would give a Labour Treasury enough money to transform the state. Reeves is unrepentant.

“What I say to colleagues [is] how can we reform our public services to deliver better value for the taxpayers and the users of those services? Then, what waste is there in the department that you shadow? And then are there things that the government department you shadow is doing where you would redirect that money in some other way? You’ve got to do all of that before you start asking for more money.”



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World

Erdogan's rival in lead as Turks vote in knife-edge poll

Turkey
Hannah Lucinda Smith
Kahramanmaras

On the eve of Turkey's critical elections Akif Demirci is still deciding who will get his vote. He is far from convinced by Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the main opposition candidate, but he is sure of one thing: President Erdogan must go.

"The opposition is the reason why [Erdogan's] AKP has been in power for 20 years. It is not about the success of the AKP," says Demirci, a student who is voting in national elections for the first time tomorrow. "How many years have we been in this political situation, but they are behaving like it is their first time in opposition."

Kilicdaroglu, 74, has managed to pull together a broad coalition of parties and is forecast in final polls to win outright with 51.7 per cent of the vote.

He has won praise for his campaign, which has focused on unity and democratisation, while Erdogan, 69, has lost support due to an economic crisis and the devastating February earthquakes, but has used polarising rhetoric about LGBT communities, minorities and terrorism to galvanise his base.

The campaign trail has also been marred by accusations of Russian interference. On Thursday Kilicdaroglu said that Turkey's "Russian friends" were responsible for spreading fake material on social media. President Putin and Erdogan have close ties, and Russia is Turkey's largest supplier of energy.

"If you want to continue our friendship after May 15, withdraw your hand from the Turkish state," he said on Twitter. Moscow denies the claim.

Yet tomorrow's election, the most tightly fought since Erdogan came to power 20 years ago, is not a simple story of two sides, and even voters who have drifted away from the AKP may still not be willing to vote for the opposition.

Kilicdaroglu has led the CHP, the biggest opposition party, since 2010 but has taken it to four general election losses. In March, the opposition coalition, which includes nationalists and Islamists alongside the secularist CHP, bickered over who should be the joint candidate, with many favouring figures other than Kilicdaroglu.

There are also problematic elements within the coalition. It has AKP defectors including Ahmet Davutoglu, a former prime minister who remained in post well into Erdogan's autocratic descent. The nationalist Iyi party is almost as toxic as Erdogan for many Kurds and leftists.

The CHP has also been criticised in the aftermath of the earthquake: it controls Antakya, the worst-hit city, where rampant municipal corruption led to scores of substandard apartments being built. Like thousands of others, Demirci, 22, raced to Antakya to volunteer as a rescue worker.

"I already hated this country's politics, but after the earthquake I started to hate it even more," he said. This week he was planning to vote for Muharrem Ince or Sinan Ogan, the two outside candidates on the ballot, but Ince pulled out on Thursday. In a run-off, Demirci says he will pick Kilicdaroglu.

If the opposition is to beat Erdogan, Kilicdaroglu's first task is to hold his motley coalition together and keep his supporters, particularly the youth, engaged.

Another fear is that, should the election go to a second round on May 28, there may be violence. Last weekend Ekrem Imamoglu, the opposition mayor of Istanbul, was attacked by Erdogan supporters at a rally in Anatolia and the police watched on. Kilicdaroglu yesterday, for the first time, wore a bulletproof vest while campaigning.

A terrorist attack in the interim could upset the fragile détente between the opposition and the main Kurdish party, which is not running a candidate in order to support Kilicdaroglu. Should an attack be pinned on the PKK, an armed Kurdish separatist organisation, it would force Kilicdaroglu to choose between appealing to the opposition's Kurdish or nationalist segments.

A third concern is ballot box security. In previous elections, international monitors have found Turks were able to vote freely even though the campaigning was unfairly skewed in Erdogan's favour. Yet monitors in Turkey say that, since the last general election in 2018, Erdogan has extended his reach over the parts of the state that are meant to ensure electoral checks and balances.

"This shift sets the stage for an electoral process vulnerable to manipulation,' said Kadir Cetin, president of the Centre for Democracy Research, a think tank in Istanbul.

The concern is particularly acute in the regions hit by the earthquake. Hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced, and those now living in different cities had to re-register to vote.

Cetin said that there was a potential for "misuse of state authority" in the earthquake zone. "The focus of apprehension has now shifted to the vote-counting process. The opposition must be well organised and vigilant at the ballot boxes after voting," he added.

The opposition and a handful of monitoring organisations have managed to recruit hundreds of thousands of volunteers to monitor the polling stations. With state media, which broadcasts the official first results, entirely under Erdogan's control, the opposition will be relying on social media channels to publicise their tallies.

But there is also a fourth issue that could thwart Kilicdaroglu and his coalition: after two decades in power, Erdogan is still hugely popular.

To his hardcore conservative supporters, he is a prophet-like figure who has led Turkey into a new era. To many others, he still appears more competent than the opposition, who have been out of power for a generation and are still tarnished by the economic chaos and scandals that ravaged Turkey in the 1990s, when the CHP was last in government.

Both sides have their entrenched support bases whose minds will not be changed by campaign promises. The opposition has managed to swell its share of the vote, and final polling yesterday showed Kilicdaroglu was seven percentage points ahead of Erdogan and could win in the first round. If that happens, his rival would be almost certain to contest the result.

Turkey's future hangs on the election and it is undecided voters like Demirci who will swing the outcome.

Whichever way it goes, by Monday it will be a very different country.

Profile

Kemal Kilicdaroglu is something of an outlier by the macho standards of his country's politics (Hannah Lucinda Smith writes).

A softly spoken figure who has often struggled to match President Erdogan's populist showmanship, he has promised to put Turkey back on track to become a member of the European Union, and he wants closer ties with Nato — and an 11th-hour power struggle within his coalition has, paradoxically, given the opposition their best chance in a generation of beating Erdogan.

Part of Turkey's oft-persecuted Alevi minority, he has the advantage of appealing to any common ground that the diverse and sometimes antagonistic "table of six" coalition shares, boosting his image as a leader in the process. It is a tough group to hold together — but what they have in common is a fervent desire to unseat Erdogan.



Kemal Kilicdaroglu is hoping for success at his fifth attempt



Migrants have made increasingly desperate attempts to enter the US this week,

60,000 migrants gather

Illegal arrivals may still face an entry ban, **Keiran Southern** reports from the border at El Paso



Nearly 60,000 migrants have gathered in Mexico near the US border a day after Trump-era restrictions on immigration expired.

In the hours before curbs known as Title 42 ended, many made desperate attempts to reach America, swimming across the Rio Grande in Texas with their children or trekking through the desert in Yuma, Arizona.

Analysts had predicted the surge would occur after Title 42 expired at midnight on Thursday but it appears to have arrived in the days beforehand, with people seeking to avoid tough new punishments for illegal crossings.

President Biden introduced new rules, which include the presumption that most migrants are ineligible for asylum if they have passed through other countries without seeking protection there, or if they failed to use legal pathways to US entry.

Raul Ortiz, the US Border Patrol chief, told CBS News: "Upwards of 60,000 migrants we project are staging in and around the immediate border area. So we're focused on ensuring that we're doing everything we can to allocate resources to address those flows."

Title 42, introduced by President Trump during the Covid pandemic, allowed for the expulsion of migrants on public health grounds before they could seek asylum, although being caught carried no legal penalty and led to repeated attempts.

The law has now reverted to Title 8, under which anyone caught crossing illegally will be deemed ineligible for asylum and could face a five-year ban on re-entry and criminal prosecution.

Alejandro Mayorkas, the homeland security secretary, said 24,000 Border Patrol agents and officers were stationed at the southwestern border.

Darwin's bird is back from the brink
Page 42



Lingering division between Germans east and west
Page 43

ALFREDO ESTRELLA/AFP/GETTY IMAGES; JOE RAEDLE/GETTY IMAGES



with officials taken by surprise by a surge before the end of Title 42 restrictions rather than after, as had been expected

at US border after Covid rules axed



Some families used inflatable mattresses to paddle across the Rio Grande river

"We've been very, very clear that there are lawful, safe and orderly pathways to seek relief in the United States and if one arrives at our southern border, one is going to face tougher consequences."

Nearly 10,000 migrant arrests were made each day this week. Ortiz said he is not expecting any further surge.

In El Paso, Texas, a state of emergency had been declared in anticipation of an influx, but outreach workers reported that all was calm yesterday. Earlier more than a thousand migrants gathered in the streets surrounding the Sacred Heart church but the numbers fell dramatically after they were urged to surrender in order to be processed.

Most did so, as it meant they received a court date, months or even years away, and were allowed to enter the US.

Sandra Ramirez, communications director of Diocesan Migrant and Refugee Services, said that no wave of migrants had appeared. "It's actually been quite the opposite," she told The Times. "Things have been very quiet, at least at the locations where we've been seeing the influx over the past week. A lot of the people have been processed and released and moved on, or processed and expelled.

"And there are far fewer people who are trying to get through the gate now that they know the Title 42 has ended."

Ramirez said that for some migrants even the threat of criminal prosecution would not be enough to deter them from attempting an illegal crossing. "I think that unfortunately we will see some people who have reached a point of desperation continue to make the attempt to enter unlawfully.

"They will have their own reasons, their own reasons for survival, because they are seeing really desperate conditions in Mexico."

GIUSEPPE LAMI/EPA



Giorgia Meloni and the Pope agreed on the birthrate but not about migration

Italy needs more babies and fewer pets, insists Pope

Italy
Tom Kington Rome

The Pope and Giorgia Meloni, the Italian prime minister, have joined forces to demand that Italians have more babies after the country's birthrate nosedived last year.

Sharing a stage with Meloni at a Rome conference to tackle the crisis, Francis warned that pets were taking the place of children, recounting how a woman had asked him to bless her dog, calling it "my baby".

He told the audience: "I lost my patience and scolded her, saying many children are hungry and you bring me a dog."

Italy's birthrate dropped to 393,000 last year as deaths soared to 700,000, helping to push the population down by 179,000 to just under 59 million.

Experts predict the population will fall by another five million by 2050, which will jeopardise the country's ability to pay its pensions bill.

Denouncing a lack of state support for parents, the Pope said having children in Italy was now a "titanic struggle" where women were often forced to choose between having a family or a career. "Is there someone who can look ahead with courage and bet on the family, children and the young?" he said.

Meloni promised she was boosting family benefits and claimed that lifting the birthrate was key to defending Italy's national identity — an ambition for her right-wing government.

"Your holiness, we love our families, we love our country and we believe in our future. And we will do our part to the end," Meloni, 46, told the Pope.

Gigi de Palo, the head of the Italian Forum of Family Associations, which organised the conference, said the annual birthrate needed to jump back to 500,000 in a decade to ward off demographic collapse.

"Families have always been important to Italians but paradoxically that meant governments always took them for granted," he told The Times.

"We urgently need tax breaks for families, more help for working mothers and better child support. Families here get €75-€250 a month compared to €250-€300 in Germany," he said. "Let's see what Meloni achieves in this year's budget."

Speaking at the conference, Giuseppe Valditara, the education minister, warned that the school population would drop by one million within a decade as births decline.

Meloni has rejected the view that migration into Italy is needed to bulk up the birthrate and save the economy, claiming that arrivals will sap Italy's identity. She said the solution was for more Italian women to enter the workforce.

Francesco Lollobrigida, the agriculture minister, claimed that the conference would help to protect "Italian ethnicity".

The Pope distanced himself from Meloni's views on migration, claiming that encouraging births and welcoming migrants should go hand in hand, "because they are two sides of the same coin and reveal how much happiness there is in society".

In September the Pope said the West "needs people", claiming villages in Italy "are empty, with only 20 old people left", and could be repopulated with migrants.

Meloni combined her call for more births with a stout defence of heterosexual parenting. She attacked the use of surrogate mothers by same-sex parents. "It should no longer be scandalous to say we are all born of a man and a woman, it should no longer be a taboo to say births are not for sale, the uterus is not for rent," she said.

Wearing a long white coat that matched the Pope's robes, Meloni beamed as Francis was hugged by children on stage after he spoke.

But la Repubblica was nonplussed by Meloni's choice of clothes, claiming that the only women normally allowed to wear white when meeting the Pope are Catholic queens — a tradition called *le privilège du blanc*.

Even though they were on stage in a Rome conference hall rather than at the Vatican, Meloni's choice was "incorrect", the newspaper argued.

The faux pas recalled Cherie Blair's visit to the Vatican to meet Pope Benedict in 2006 when she caused a stir by wearing white, la Repubblica added.

World

Flats shattered by Russian missile are a symbol of Ukrainian resolve

Ukraine

Marc Bennetts Dnipro

It was a winter's afternoon when a Russian Kh-22 anti-ship missile slammed into a block of flats in Dnipro, killing 46 people in one of the deadliest strikes on civilians since the start of the Ukraine war.

The attack stood out for its savagery, even among the seemingly endless horrors of Russia's invasion. The missile cleaved through apartment walls, exposing survivors on the upper floors as they clung to the shattered remains of their homes. An image of Anastasia Shvets, 23, sitting amid the wreckage of her seventh-floor flat, went viral.

Four months on from the missile strike, the ruins of the nine-storey building in Victory Embankment, which overlooks the Dnipro River, have yet to be demolished. The interiors of the flats, or what remains of them, are visible from the street below. In one, a half-open cupboard is still full of clothes. In another, there are a row of neatly stacked dishes. Elsewhere, there are bookshelves and a bright yellow kitchen where Mykhailo Korenovskyi, a Ukrainian boxing coach, was killed.

Despite the grim reminder of the attack, life in the housing estate goes on in a show of resilience that is tempered by a sense of shock that is never likely to go away.

This afternoon, children enjoy the nearby playground, the sound of laughter echoing only yards from where dozens of lives were torn apart.

"We're planting flowers," says Lyudmila, whose windows were blown out by the sound wave from the explosion. "Roses, chrysanthemums, peonies, some tulips." She gestures at the blossoming land in the centre of the estate. "We want to get the grass in shape."

She pauses. "But it's hard to sleep. Every time there is an air raid alert, I sit up all night staring at my phone or talking to friends. We try to calm each other." As if on cue, an air raid siren wails in the distance.

Sabina, whose mother, Olha, and stepfather, Oleh, were both injured in the blast, was unable to walk past the ruins for months.

"I would take a detour," she says. "I just couldn't look at it. But not long ago I decided that we had to get on with our lives and so we came to have a look and remember all the good times we spent there."

At a bus stop opposite the flats, there is a makeshift memorial of soft toys to commemorate the six children who died in the attack. In a cruel twist, some of the victims had fled to Dnipro from Mariupol, the southern port city that was all but wiped out by Russian bombs.

Like others in Dnipro, Sabina and her parents were on edge this week when the Kremlin intensified its missile and drone attacks to coincide with the build-up to the Victory Day military parade in Red Square. Ukraine's improved air defences ensured that there were no direct strikes on Dnipro, although a woman was injured when fragments of a shot-down Russian missile crashed into her flat. "I haven't been sleeping much," Sabina says.

Iryna, whose parents live next to the ruins, shows The Times a photograph taken on the first evening after the blast, when rescue workers searched for survivors in the rubble. "We walked through the dark, through that stench of burning, with people's screams all around," she says, tears welling. "I don't know if we will ever get over this, even after the war. Missiles and drones fly over my home all the time. I carry sedatives with me everywhere. There's no other way I can get through the day."

The city has paid out 2 million hyrvnia (£43,000) to families whose homes were destroyed, enough to buy a two-bedroom flat in Dnipro. They have also received money from charities.

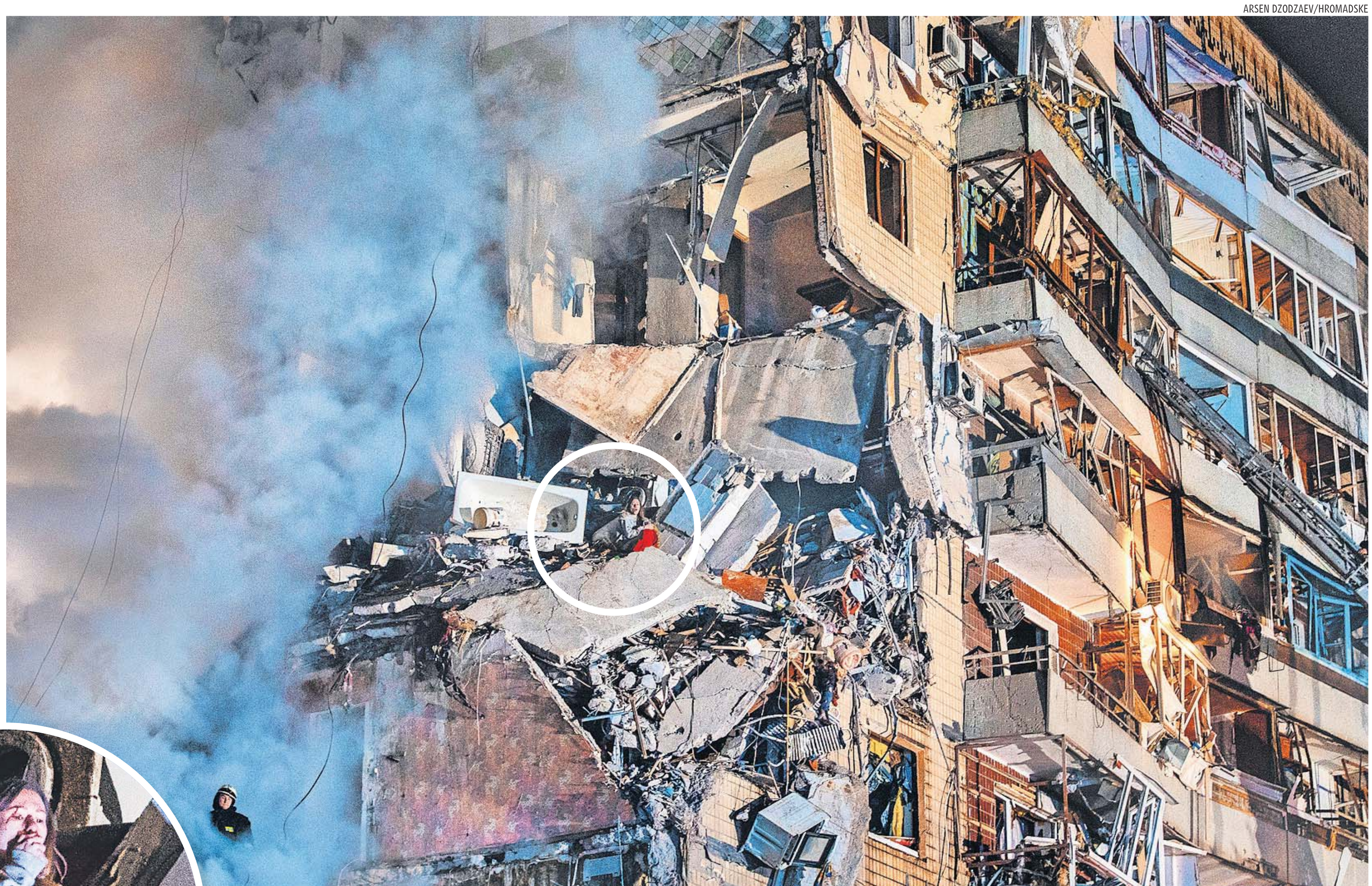
"You can't rehouse people who have experienced suffering like that together in the same place," Borys Filatov, the mayor of Dnipro, says. "There would be constant remembrances of the dead and alcoholism. These people need to adapt again socially so we decided to give them money to buy new homes for themselves."

Filatov, who grew up on the estate and still has friends and family there, says the shattered building will soon be demolished and a memorial square built in its place. "For me, this was a personal tragedy," he says.

Maryna Pidhirna, a psychologist who is helping to treat the survivors, says that many of the children are continuing to suffer from stress. "You can see the fear and the sense of danger that they are living with," she says. "And it's possible that this will stay with them for the rest of their lives."

Back in her urban garden, Lyudmila says that despite the shadow cast over the neighbourhood by January's missile attack, Dnipro is still safer than towns and cities such as Bakhmut and Mariupol. "Compared to such places, we are living in paradise."

ARSEN DZODZAEV/HROMADSKE





Anastasia Shvets sits amid the shattered remains of a block of flats in Dnipro that was hit by a Russian anti-ship missile, killing 46 residents

Stop lying over Bakhmut retreat, Wagner boss tells Kremlin

Tom Parfitt

The mercenary leader Yevgeny Prigozhin has accused Russian army units of "fleeing" their positions around the battleground city of Bakhmut, even as Moscow insisted there had been no Ukrainian breakthrough.

"This is not called regrouping, this is fleeing," Prigozhin said in an audio statement on social media, after the Russian defence ministry claimed that it was redeploying troops to establish stronger defensive positions.

Defence ministry units "simply went fleeing" from positions around the north and south of the city, Prigozhin, said in a separate video address. "The flanks are failing. The front is collapsing," said the businessman, also known as Putin's Chef for his company's Kremlin catering contracts. He added: "Attempts by the defence ministry in the information field to sugarcoat the situation — it's leading and will lead to a global tragedy for Russia. For this reason we must stop lying immediately."

Ukraine had earlier said it had taken a stretch of land near Bakhmut and was on the advance, amid speculation that this was the beginning of its much-heralded counter-offensive. Hanna Maliar, the Ukrainian deputy defence minister, said his country's forces had pushed back Russian forces 1.2 miles around the city.

Prigozhin said Russian troops were forced to give up tactical heights and positions near a reservoir.

Moscow claimed to have repulsed attacks on a 60-mile front near the city, and said the situation was "under control". The Russian defence ministry denied bloggers' reports that Ukrainian forces had broken through at points. It said its forces were "continuing to liberate the western parts" of Bakhmut.

A Chinese envoy will visit Ukraine and Russia next week as Beijing steps up efforts to broker a political settlement to the war. Beginning on Monday, Li Hui, special representative of the Chinese government for Eurasian Affairs, will also visit Poland, France and Germany.

The tour demonstrates China's "commitment to promoting peace and talks", said Wang Wenbin, a spokesman for the Chinese foreign ministry. Li's task would be to "communicate with all parties on the political settlement of the Ukrainian crisis", Wang said. "China is willing to continue to play a constructive role in building more international consensus on the ceasefire, the cessation of war, the opening of peace talks, and the avoidance of escalation of the situation," he added.

China published a 12-point peace proposal in February calling for talks and respect for national sovereignty, but does not demand that Russian forces leave occupied territory in Ukraine.

President Putin of Russia met President Xi in March and said the plan could form the "basis" of a settlement, but he did not believe that Ukraine or the West was ready for one.

President Zelensky of Ukraine spoke to Xi for an hour on April 26, the first time the two leaders had talked since Russia invaded Ukraine in February last year. After the call, Zelensky described it as an "opportunity to use China's political influence to restore the strength of the principles and rules on which peace should be based".

Zelensky had earlier expressed readiness to discuss the peace initiative with Xi but the absence of a call for a Russian withdrawal is likely to be a significant stumbling block for Kyiv.

Western countries view Xi's initiative with scepticism as Beijing is deepening political and economic ties with Moscow. The White House said in March that it opposed Chinese calls for a ceasefire in Ukraine because they would only hand Moscow time to prepare a new offensive.

Eau no you don't: Belgian king wastes water in parched Côte d'Azur

France
Bruno Waterfield

The former King of Belgium is under fire for squandering water at his home on the Côte d'Azur and has been accused of phoning President Macron to protest at French criticism of him.

King Albert, who abdicated in 2013, is part of a group of powerful residents accused of flouting water rules and then of complaining when threatened with €3,000 fines. Albert, 88, and Queen Paola, 85, spend most of their days at Le Romarin — Rosemary — their villa at Châteauneuf-Grasse which has a swimming pool, fountains and ponds.

Albert has joined a select blacklist of people who phone the Élysée Palace to demand immunity from the fines, including Silvio Berlusconi, the former Italian leader, and Albert's nephew Henri, Grand Duke of Luxembourg.

"They have no civil conscience. If I make a comment, they call the foreign minister or even President Macron," Emmanuel Delmotte, the local mayor, told the Libération newspaper.

Delmotte is angry because the village has 3,700 inhabitants but just five of them, including the Belgian royal, are responsible for the majority of water consumption in a region suffering from the most severe drought on record.

Emergency measures include higher prices for water and bans on watering lawns or filling swimming pools, alongside restrictions hitting farmers and public buildings. "I think they are not at all aware that there is a problem of resources. For them, it is a question of means. If water is expensive, the water is expensive," he said. "Some owners consume more than a rest home with 200 residents, with peaks of 2,000 cubic metres of water per week. I did not expect overconsumption on this scale."

Albert bought the villa in 1990 and was accused during his 20-year reign of spending more time in Châteauneuf-Grasse than in Brussels, with a government plane regularly flying over a briefcase of state papers to be signed.

He handed the throne to his son, the reigning King Philippe, amid a legal challenge over his refusal to take a paternity test. Princess Delphine of Belgium was recognised as his daughter in October 2020 after court battles to force DNA testing.

A royal spokesman denied any intentional breach of drought rules and said a leak, now fixed, was the cause of higher water use last year.

Gaddafi 'paid €5m to help Sarkozy win'

Charles Bremner Paris

Nicolas Sarkozy was paid up to €5 million by Muammar Gaddafi in return for business contracts and bringing Libya back into the international fold, French prosecutors said.

The conclusions are laid out by the prosecutors calling for Sarkozy and 12 associates to stand trial on charges including corruption and embezzlement over his links to Gaddafi during the 2007 French presidential election, which Sarkozy won.

Suitcases of cash and bank transfers from Libya are alleged to have financed Sarkozy's campaign. In return Sarkozy granted "diplomatic, economic and judicial considerations" to Gaddafi, the Libyan ruler killed in 2011, according to the 425-page indictment.

Sarkozy, who is awaiting appeals against two criminal convictions, denies any wrongdoing in the Libyan case, by far the most explosive of several brought against him since he left office in 2012. He remains a powerful figure and is close to President Macron.

Examining judges will decide if the case, which follows a ten-year investigation, should go forward. Judges usually approve such requests, making it likely that the 68-year-old conservative will face trial again, probably next year.

Next week, Sarkozy will hear the verdict from an appeal against his 2021 conviction for attempting to bribe a judge, for which he received a two-year sentence. He has also appealed against a 2021 conviction and one-year sentence for campaign finance breaches from his failed 2012 re-election bid.

JONATHAN ERNST/REUTERS



Small talk A close encounter with the commander-in-chief was all a bit much for one young campaigner at an event in the White House Rose Garden at which President Biden was highlighting his conservation and climate change initiatives

Lisbon to let terminally ill end their lives

Portugal
Isambard Wilkinson

Portugal has legalised euthanasia for people who are terminally ill and in intolerable suffering.

The debate divided the Catholic country and faced opposition from President Rebelo de Sousa.

The law allows anyone aged over 18 to request assistance dying if they are suffering "lasting" and "unbearable" pain, unless they are judged not to be mentally fit to make the decision.

Only Portuguese citizens and people with residency will be covered by the law. Foreigners will not be able to travel Portugal to seek assisted suicide.

Parliament has approved the euthanasia bill four times in the past three years but it was sent back each time for a constitutional review by the president, a practising Catholic. It was passed yesterday with 129 votes in favour, 81 against and one abstention.

Members of parliament decided to ignore the political veto of the president, arguing that the law has been long-debated and modified. "The time has come for the majority of the parliament to be respected," said Isabel Moreira, an MP from the governing Socialist Party. "It is not an affront to the president of the republic, since his opinions have always been taken into account with respect," added João Cotrim de Figueiredo, a liberal MP.

The law could come into force by the autumn. Euthanasia and assisted suicide are allowed in only a handful of European states, including the Benelux nations and Spain.

French want to carry on (cheap) camping

France
Adam Sage Paris

With static caravans costing more than €6,000 a week in August and facilities that include Jacuzzis and a Turkish-style steam bath, the Domaine du Colombier is a cutting-edge campsite.

But to French traditionalists, it is exactly the sort of upmarket establishment that needs to be brought to heel in a reassertion of the working-class credentials of camping.

The Domaine du Colombier campsite on the French Riviera has 302 static caravans available but just 18 pitches for campers who arrive with their own tents or mobile homes.

Critics complain that this sort of scenario is all too common in France, where the decline of mobile homes and the rise of static caravans are sparking class warfare.

The issue has been brought to the fore by a petition, launched this winter and signed by more than 20,000 people, to "save real campsites".

Petitioners argue that true camping is being endangered by campsite owners who replace old-fashioned pitches with luxury static homes that are reported to generate five or six times as much revenue.

The petition says: "190,000 empty pitches have disappeared over the past 10 years." It says that static caravans covered 29 per cent of the nation's pitches in 2011, but 49 per cent in 2022.

"At this rate, an empty pitch will be a rarity in 15 years' time."

Campaigners complain that France's campsites are now full of upper middle-class families who are spurning camp stoves and communal showers in favour of "chalets" with modern cooking equipment and private bathrooms.

In such places, "real campers are no longer welcome" and the "culture of camping is scorned", they say.

Olivier Lemercier, the owner of l'Iscle de Prelles campsite in the French Alps, launched the campaign in anger at what he considers a threat to the French identity.

"Real camping is part of French culture, we must preserve it," he said. "As a campsite manager I want to protect my profession, its knowhow and the image of this activity."

His supporters argue that working-class families cannot afford to rent the luxurious static homes sprouting across French campsites, with many no longer taking holidays as a result.

Olivier Sirost, professor of sociology at Rouen University in Normandy, said the "gentrification of campsites" had led them to become a symbol of the class struggle.

"What we see is that two out of five French people no longer go on holiday at all," he said, adding that they were losing the "right to leisure" that had been acquired in France in 1936, when the left-wing Popular Front government of the day introduced annual leave for the country's employees.



Old-fashioned pitches are being replaced by pools and other facilities

The petition is calling on President Macron's government to reverse the trend by forcing all campsites to have a "reasonable" number of empty pitches for tents and caravans.

"This solution would resolve the problem in a simple, efficient and rapid way," it says.

But Nicolas Dayot, chairman of the French National Camping Federation, said: "It would be collective suicide to want to impose a quota of empty pitches. You would prevent campsites from evolving, from improving and you would increase the rate at which they disappear."

The federation says the sector, which has annual revenue of about €3 billion, is being driven by four and five-star campsites that attract well-heeled holidaymakers from across Europe.

At the same time, more than 1,000 one or two-star campsites have closed over the past two decades.

World

Thai generals braced for modernisers to take power

Thailand
Philip Sherwell Bangkok

An upset is on the cards when Thais go to the polls tomorrow, in a land where coups and courts have regularly trumped the ballot box.

The election pitches reformist pro-democracy parties backed by the young and the rural poor against the conservative, pro-military, royalist establishment. The generals, who seized power by coup in 2014 and retained control in 2019 under the skewed electoral system that they drew up, appear to be on the wrong side of the fault line as their parties languish in opinion surveys.

At least 60 per cent of the vote appears to be heading for Pheu Thai, the party of the Shinawatra clan twice overthrown by the military this century, and Move Forward, an upstart progressive movement with surging campaign momentum. The country is at a crossroads, their leaders said at closing rallies.

Desire for change certainly seems to be in the air: in cloyingly humid conditions there was a 92 per cent turnout in early voting last weekend, but there are already signs that an opposition landslide could be blocked. Pita Limjaroenrat, 42, the charismatic Harvard-educated Move Forward leader, who has drawn huge crowds, is facing calls for his disqualification because of his alleged ownership of media company shares, which is forbidden for candidates.

Thaksin Shinawatra, the former prime minister deposed in a 2006 coup, remains the biggest name in Thai politics from his self-exile in Dubai, and has shaken up the campaign by pledging to fly back this summer despite his corruption convictions.

Thaksin parties — Pheu Thai is the latest iteration — have won the largest share of every election since 2001. Populist policies such as universal healthcare and farming subsidies have earned the loyalty of the rural masses, and that has challenged the Bangkok elite's domination of business and politics. Move Forward represents an even more radical threat to the system because it champions reforms of the military, the conglomerates and, most explosively, palace finances and the draconian royal defamation laws that protect the powerful King Vajiralongkorn.

Under a conventional electoral system, the opposition would appear on course to form the next government. But in Thailand's turbulent politics, with its history of military and judicial interventions ousting elected governments, nothing is straightforward.

Conservative leaders issue regular warnings not to "mess" with the system. Thailand is a "land for patriots" and if "nation haters" don't like it, they should get out, according to a senior party ally of General Prayut Chan-o-cha, the 2014 coup leader and prime minister.

It is little wonder that many fear another thwarting of democratic will. Thailand, after all, is the world's most coup-prone country. The army has staged 13 successful takeovers, and many more failed ones, since the end of the absolute monarchy in 1932.

General Prayut and General Prawit Wongsuwon, his deputy but now political campaign rival, have insisted that the era of coups is over but their record hardly makes them neutral observers. A more immediate prospect is "lawfare" rather than warfare, as the opposition already faces a slew of legal claims for alleged breaches of rules, however small and arcane.

Their leaders know all about that threat: Pheu Thai and Move Forward are both new incarnations of parties disbanded on legal technicalities after impressive election performances. Even if they remain in existence after their expected success at the polls, that does not automatically translate into power in the next parliament. Under the terms of the military-drafted 2017 constitution, the prime minister will be chosen not just by the 500 new MPs but also by the 250 unelected senators appointed by that very same junta.

This system makes almost certain that the vote will open protracted coalition negotiations rather than returning a winner. From those backroom deals one of the generals, or a civilian party acceptable to the military and palace, could yet emerge as leader, without the need for guns or judges.

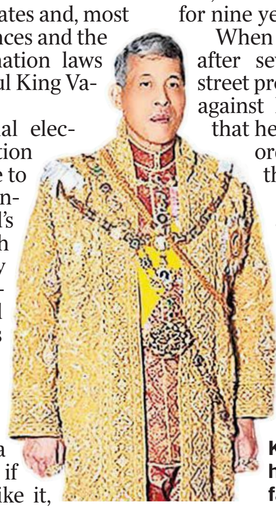
In the dark arts of Thai politics, MPs are often encouraged to defect, post-poll, by offers of lucrative positions, further muddying the waters.

For Pheu Thai, a priority — however much the party's leaders publicly disavow it — is to secure the return of Thaksin without him being sent to prison for corruption convictions that he claims were politically motivated.

In the *Game of Thrones* world that is Thai politics, there is also the incumbent, General Prayut, who has reigned for nine years in and out of uniform.

When he staged the 2014 coup after several years of disruptive street protests pitting Thaksin's foes against his supporters, he argued that he was restoring stability and order "to bring happiness to the people".

His case now is that he is a safe pair of hands. "I know all of the problems and I have the experience to fix them," he said recently. The trouble is that the people to whom he said that he was returning "happiness" do not seem convinced.



King Vajiranlonkorn and his palace finances are facing demands for reform



TUI DE ROY/NATUREPL.

Darwin's flycatcher, also known as the little vermilion flycatcher, is showing signs of recovery after steps to protect its chicks from predators and parasites

Darwin's bird is flying back from the brink

Some 190 years ago, the Darwin's flycatcher was so plentiful on the Galapagos Islands that Charles Darwin's shipmates described it as ubiquitous. Ten years ago, this small bright bird, named after the father of evolution, was so rare it seemed destined for extinction (Tom Whipple writes).

It has just been announced that it has had its best breeding season yet — with 12 chicks recorded on one island. Conservationists believe that thanks to improvements in its habitat, the bird, also known as the little vermilion flycatcher, could be coming back from the brink.

In the logs of HMS Beagle, the ship that took Darwin to the Galapagos, and ultimately to his theory of evolution, the entry for the flycatcher states "there is nothing remarkable" about it.

The log adds that the bird is found from the "arid and rocky districts near the coast" to the "damp woods in higher parts".

No longer. On Santa Cruz, the second-largest island, the population dropped to 15 pairs.

Fearing that the bird was at risk of extinction, here and on other islands, a conservation programme began.

The Galapagos Conservancy used insecticide and nets to take on the vampire flies whose larvae suck the blood of chicks, caught predatory rodents with bait, and cut back dense thickets of non-native Asian blackberry, which was stopping the birds from reaching spiders and caterpillars on the ground.

The approach seems to have worked. The number of fledglings has gone from two a year before the measures started to six then eight — and now 12.

There is a long way to go but Danny Rueda, the reserve's director, said that "each chick that is born is a new hope to save this species that is vulnerable and on the red list".

Tokyo's pay-as-you-go teenage robbers

Japan
Richard Lloyd Parry Tokyo

It looked, to those who witnessed the scene in Tokyo's expensive Ginza district, like a sequence from an action film. For ten minutes in broad daylight, four men in black hoods and white masks used crow bars to smash display cases and grab Rolex watches.

They escaped in a van, oblivious to onlookers, some of whom filmed the spectacle on mobile phones. But it was not only the robbery itself that was remarkable in a country where serious crime is rare. When the perpetrators — four teenage boys — were caught a few hours later it became clear that they did not know one another at all.

The full facts have yet to emerge but the robbery, on May 7, seems to be part of a growing Japanese trend of criminals who are unknown to each other being recruited online for what are advertised as "yami baito", or "dark gigs".

Several robberies, and at least one murder, have been attributed to such groups, who are co-ordinated and paid by masterminds who may not even be in Japan. They are part of the rise of the shadowy groups known as *hangure*, or "quasi-delinquents", who organise online and who are filling the gaps left after a police crackdown on Japan's traditional yakuza gangs.

"Even if perpetrators are arrested, such cases cannot be stemmed if the person pulling the strings plans other crimes," wrote the Yomiuri newspaper this month in an anguished editorial. "The situation in which young people casually apply for such crimes must be stopped. A situation like this, in which a crime occurs in full view of the public and is broadcast domestically and internationally, could shake Japan's reputation as a safe country."

The Ginza robbery was a clumsy crime as well as a bold one. It occurred at 6.15pm in full view of weekend shoppers, some of whom posted videos online. The youngsters stuffed their black holdalls with 70 Rolexes, worth ¥250m (£1.5 million), from the shop, called Quark Ginza 888, and escaped in a hired van with number plates from a car stolen a day earlier.

Police found the van in minutes. The robbers were a few yards away. They all come from the neighbouring city of Yokohama but insisted that they did not know one another. Whether police can identify their puppet master is unclear.

Such crimes often begin with the response to an online ad offering "dark gigs" and "underbelly gigs", promising "high reward". Those who respond are asked for their names and addresses and those of their parents, a way of exerting pressure should nerves weaken.

Communications are typically via the online app Telegram, which makes it difficult to trace the source of a particular message.

In January, a gang ran amok in a house in a Tokyo suburb, tying up and killing its occupant, a 90-year old woman. Smart phones of the arrested suspects led the police to Yuki Watanabe, 38, known by the nickname "Luffy", who was in a detention centre in the Philippines.

Remarkably, he and his gang members continued their criminal activities even after being arrested on charges that, according to the Philippines justice minister, they cooked up against themselves to evade extradition to Japan. The ploy failed and they were flown back and arrested in February.

MOHAMEDBINZAYED/INSTAGRAM; SABC NEWS; ALAMY







Sheikh's safari with entourage of 500

The president of the UAE paid for a £1 million upgrade to a remote airport in South Africa so it could accommodate his fleet of planes carrying cars, helicopters and an entourage of 500 for a private hunting safari (Jane Flanagan writes).

Bhisho-Bulembu airport was designated an international port of entry during the visit by Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan to celebrate Eid.

Improvements to the airport, in Eastern Cape province and which was decommissioned in the 1990s, included a new runway big enough to land C-17 military cargo planes delivering an air ambulance, gym equipment and furniture.

Jets carrying medical staff, entertainers, bodyguards, relatives and friends were the last to touch down. Family members were taken by five helicopters to the reserve near Makhanda, formerly Grahamstown, where luxury lodges have been erected and wildlife restocked.

News of the landings gave rise to suspicions that the government had waived immigration protocols, as it did a decade ago for the Gupta business family from India, whose private use of an air force base underscored their influence over President Zuma. Two of the Gupta brothers were arrested in the UAE in June last year but efforts to have them extradited failed. They deny any wrongdoing.

"All relevant resources have been put in place to ensure adherence with the law," Oscar Mabuyane, Eastern Cape's premier, said.

Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed al-Nahyan, centre, spent £1 million on airport upgrades for his family to join him in South Africa

A generation on, east Germans are smarting over sneers from the west

Oliver Moody

GERMANY CONFIDENTIAL

BERLIN

What is an Ossi's favourite sport? The bobsled: there's a wall on each side and it's all downhill.

East and west Germans, crudely nicknamed Ossis and Wessis, have traded ostensibly harmless jokes for decades. They are part of the cultural furniture of reunification, a way for people to smooth over the difficulties of rebuilding a nation after 45 years of division.

Like a lot of humour that passes for banter, though, it can leave a bitter aftertaste. The underlying resentments and prejudices are real. Recently Mathias Döpfner, the German press baron, had to issue an apology after a leaked text revealed he had described east Germans as "either communists or fascists, nothing in between … disgusting".

More than 30 years have passed since the fall of the Berlin wall but Döpfner's remark reflects the persistent west German caricatures about the formerly communist east, whose inhabitants are still frequently dismissed as Jammerossis (whingeing Ossis): slipshod, thick, politically extremist, obsessed with their victimhood and seething with anger.

The last of those stereotypes is increasingly accurate. This spring the German non-fiction bestseller chart has been dominated by Dirk Oschmann's book *The East: A West German Invention*, which has ignited a national debate about whether easterners are subjected to a form of German-on-German racism.

Oschmann, a literature professor at the University of Leipzig, which fell within East Germany, argues that there is still a rift between the two Germanys, and that western discrimination against the east has become worse. None of the book's reasoning is new but what sets it apart is the blunt force of its rage and the strong emotions it has aroused.

"The east is being continually defamed," Oschmann said. "There's a whole series of characteristics that get attributed to people from the east: they're supposedly dumb, they're weird, they're lazy, they're inept, they're strangely or nastily dressed.

"It adds up to a degradation that does lasting damage to the people in the east, and then leads to societal effects, such as people feeling that they can place ever less faith in this democracy of ours … I wouldn't use the term 'racism' but the functional mechanisms are comparable."

When east Germany surfaces in public discourse, it is often because of the popularity of the hard-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party or a lingering fondness for Russia, tinged with inveterate pacifism and scepticism of Nato and the US.

Oschmann regards both phenomena as symptoms of alienation. Easterners, as he sees it, have been treated as second-class citizens for 33 years and then blamed for the discontent and anti-establishment spirit that resulted.

"The AfD is especially strong among 18 to 35-year-olds," he said. "You can't blame pre-1989 politics for this. You have to attribute it to the politics of reunified Germany since 1990, where you see the incredible upheavals and transformations in these areas: the collapse of industry, the collapse of social structures, the collapse of job opportunities."

The book says reunification is at the root of the problem, when the socialist German Democratic Republic (GDR) was willingly folded into West Germany, adopting its constitution, its laws, its currency, its national anthem and its authorised interpretations of history.

Precious few people in eastern Germany mourn the passing of the GDR, which was a totalitarian state with an intrusive security apparatus and a shattered economy. But plenty resent what happened next.

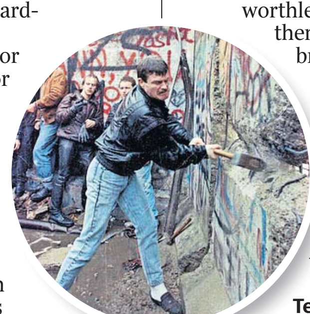
The region was, Oschmann argues, set up to be an intrinsically inferior copy of the west, an eternal pupil. Millions of east Germans found their technical qualifications suddenly worthless. Nearly a million of them moved west in a brain drain. It was particularly tough for women: the GDR's free childcare and liberal abortion laws vanished overnight.

For many of the Wessis who moved in, it was something like the wild east. The wheezingly inefficient industrial base was privatised and dismantled. Predominantly west German investors acquired the salvageable parts and disposed of the rest. As another joke from the Nineties put it: when will German reunification be complete? When the last Ossi is struck off the property register.

Since then the region has made solid economic progress thanks in part to eye-watering fiscal transfers amounting to well over €2 trillion at today's values. Its average incomes may still be 20 per cent lower in real terms but the gap is narrowing.

For Oschmann, though, the issue is not so much the money as the lack of respect. There are virtually no east Germans in the upper echelons of public life. They make up 19 per cent of the population but 1.5 per cent of its leading scientists, 3 per cent of its elite judges and none of its military top brass. The few who do make it are wary of casting themselves as role models. Angela Merkel, the former chancellor, grew up in the GDR but she did her best to downplay it.

There is also German-German ignorance. In 2019 a survey found 17 per cent of west Germans had never set foot in the east. A friend from east Germany said she was treated like an exotic yokel at a university in the west only 15 years ago, her classmates amazed to learn that anyone in her home town owned a car. "I do have the impression that something's changed, that people are talking about it now," Oschmann said. "The east Germans born in the 1980s deal with their origins a lot more openly. Something is beginning to shift."



Tensions still linger years after the Berlin wall fell

Meet the wild editor of Bild, Magazine

US envoy's Russia claim 'crossed line'

South Africa

Jane Flanagan Cape Town

South Africa's foreign minister summoned the US ambassador to express "utter displeasure" at his claims that Pretoria had covertly sent arms to Russia for its war in Ukraine.

In a statement following the demarche, the foreign ministry claimed Reuben Brigety "admitted that he crossed the line and apologised unreservedly to the government and the people of South Africa". The Washington ambassador later tweeted that he had tried "to correct any misimpressions left by my public remarks" after he briefed reporters on Thursday that weapons and ammunition were loaded onto a sanctioned Russian vessel docked near Cape Town in December.

The rand dropped to a historic low against the dollar following Brigety's briefing and put the greatest strain on relations between the two countries since the end of apartheid.

Claims of Pretoria's neutrality have looked increasingly hollow as South Africa has hosted Sergey Lavrov, the Russian foreign minister, this year as well as warships from Russia and China for joint naval exercises.

President Ramaphosa's office said a retired judge would probe the docking of the Lady R at the naval yard in Simon's Town six months ago, before it sailed to a Russian Black Sea port.

Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, a minister in the president's office, said the government "cannot be bullied by the US" over the investigation, and would follow a "time frame that is suitable for us".

The Kremlin reported President Putin and Ramaphosa had "expressed their intentions to further intensify mutually beneficial ties in various fields" during a call yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES
RICH LIST

35 years of...

"I had that idea"

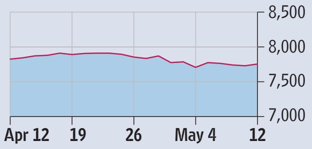


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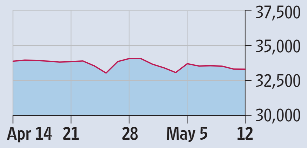
Business

WORLD MARKETS (Change on the day)

FTSE 100
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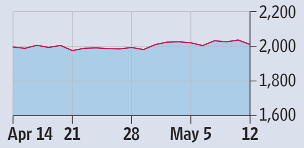


Dow Jones
33,300.62 (-8.89)▼

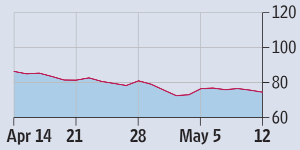


COMMODITIES

Gold
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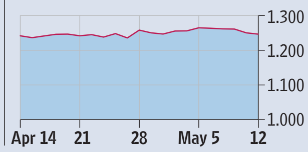


Brent crude (6pm)
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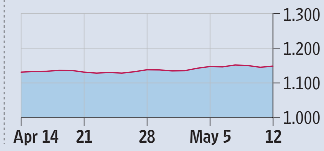


CURRENCIES

£/$
$1.2463 (-0.0037)▼



£/€
€1.1481 (+0.0030)▲



AngloGold chooses New York over London for listing switch

Emily Gosden

One of the world's biggest gold miners is moving its main listing from Johannesburg to New York instead of London, stoking fears that the UK market is struggling to attract leading companies.

AngloGold Ashanti, valued at about $11 billion, was widely speculated to be plotting a move to the London Stock Exchange after offloading its interests in South Africa. It is understood to have considered all options before deciding on a primary listing in the US.

AngloGold Ashanti already has a secondary listing in New York, where two thirds of its share trading takes place, and said that America had "by far the largest pool of gold capital".

The company has, however, opted to move its domicile to the UK, becoming tax resident and holding board meetings in London. It described the UK as a "well proven, low-risk and attractive jurisdiction" and said the move minimised costs for shareholders, who would have faced higher taxes on their dividends were it to domicile in America.

AngloGold Ashanti is the world's fourth biggest gold miner, producing 2.7 million ounces last year and reporting headline earnings of $544 million.

It has operations in Africa, South America and Australia but sold its last South African mine in 2020.

Analysts at RBC had said they believed that "a move from Johannesburg to London is most likely". There was speculation that the company could fill a gap left by the former London-listed Randgold Resources when it was taken over by Barrick in late 2018.

The decision to move the primary listing to New York is the latest in a series of recent announcements that have raised fears that London markets are losing their shine.

The FTSE 100 has lost Ferguson, the plumbing group, which moved its primary listing to New York last year and CRH, the building products group, is planning to follow suit. Arm, the UK tech darling, opted to float in New York and Flutter, the gambling group, is pursuing a secondary listing in New York and has said it will consider switching to a primary listing in future.

Four of the world's top miners, BHP, Rio Tinto, Glencore and Anglo American, were members of the FTSE 100 until last year when BHP, the biggest, ditched its premium listing in London and unified its dual corporate structure behind a main listing in Australia.

PwC board fly in amid tax scandal

Boss resigned following 'swift action'

Bernard Lagan Sydney
James Hurley

The boss of PwC in Australia left after pressure from the accountancy giant's global leadership amid their growing alarm at revelations the firm used secret government information about a tax clampdown to market an avoidance plan to clients.

PwC had initially said that Tom Seymour, the firm's Australian chief executive, resigned on Monday because he came to an agreement with the board.

It now says that its global leadership took "swift action" in response to the scandal, which showed that PwC had used confidential information gleaned from its work with the country's government to advise technology clients on new anti-tax-avoidance rules.

The intervention is a sign of how serious the matter has become. It comes amid increasing scrutiny of the proximity of consulting firms to governments and questions over conflicts of interest between the interests of taxpayers and firms' private sector clients.

Senior PwC global executives flew into Sydney last weekend, the Australian Financial Review reported, showing that the issue has become an international concern. PwC is headquartered in London and has firms in 157 countries. It is the world's second-largest professional services group.

Seymour left after admitting that he had received emails related to the "marketing strategy" of confidential tax advice. He said that he had not known the information originated in highly confidential material the Australian government had supplied to a tax partner of the firm, Peter Collins, whom it had asked to help design laws to better tax multinational companies.

Bob Moritz, the New York-based global PwC chairman, reportedly demanded change at the Australian firm after its global general counsel, Diana Weiss, along with other executives including Carol Stubbings, global head of tax, had assessed the situation.

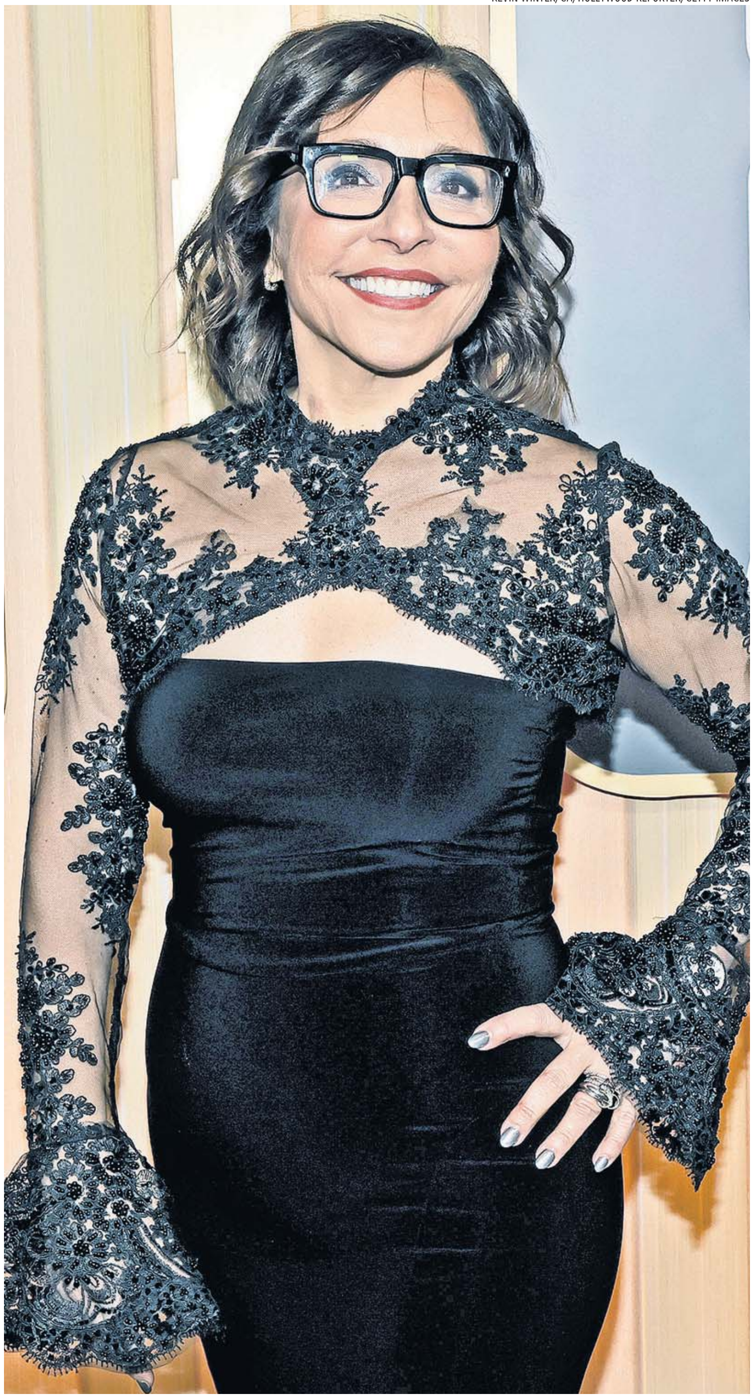
The tax leaks saga began in January, when the Financial Review revealed that the Tax Practitioners Board had terminated the registration of Collins for the unauthorised sharing of confidential information about the government's tax plans with other PwC partners and staff.

On Tuesday the Australian parliament published a cache of internal PwC emails that showed exchanges between more than 50 redacted email addresses, discussing a marketing project to target US tech companies and offering a "work plan" to deal with new tax laws which Collins was providing advice to the Australian Treasury on.

Collins had signed multiple confidentiality agreements.

A PwC spokesman said new leadership in Australia was "initiating independently-supervised reviews of the events" and that the "unauthorised sharing of and/or utilisation of confidential information is unacceptable and goes against our culture, values and professional standards".

KEVIN WINTER/GA/HOLLYWOOD REPORTER/GETTY IMAGES



Tweet, tweet Elon Musk named Linda Yaccarino, 60, a US advertising executive, as boss of Twitter, six months after he bought the social media company. Page 47

Royal Mail chief quits after dispute

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

The chief executive of Royal Mail has stepped down, saying that it was the right time for the company to move forward under new leadership.

Simon Thompson said that his decision to leave came after Royal Mail's deal last month with the Communication Workers Union, which ended a long-running dispute over jobs and conditions.

Ever since taking the top job in 2021, Thompson has been under pressure over strikes and has faced criticism from MPs who accused him of not giving "wholly accurate" answers when he appeared before them.

International Distributions Services (IDS), Royal Mail's parent company, said that it was in advanced stages of appointing a replacement. Thompson will stay on until the end of October to help with the transition.

Thompson, whose departure was first reported by Sky News this week, will continue to receive his normal salary and benefits. He will also receive seven monthly payments, totalling £289,415, which represents six months and twelve days' pay in lieu of notice. He will be eligible for a bonus.

A former Ocado executive who ran the government's much-criticised Covid-19 test-and-trace smartphone app for five months, Thompson was the group's fourth boss in less than three years. He had been a non-executive director at Royal Mail since 2017 and one of his roles included responsibility for "engagement with the workforce".

One of his priorities as chief executive was to push through automation at the company, which has a history of industrial strife. In July last year the dispute came to a head when more than 115,000 workers voted to go on strike.

Royal Mail's shares have fallen more that 30 per cent in the past year. IDS shares, which were trading as high as 570p in June 2021, fell 3½p, or 1.5 per cent, to 228p yesterday.

Analysis, page 47

Need to know

1 Rishi Sunak has been accused by one of Britain's leading entrepreneurs of overseeing the "scandalous neglect" of the science and technology sectors. Sir James Dyson said the prime minister's pledge to make the UK a "science and technology superpower" was a political slogan. **Page 1, letters, page 28**

2 An estimated 3.75 million households are facing a £12 billion increase to their mortgage bills. They are yet to face the impact of rising mortgage rates as they are on a cheap fixed deal, according to the Resolution Foundation think tank. **Page 2**

3 Tom Seymour, the boss of PwC in Australia, left after pressure from the accountancy firm's global leadership amid their alarm at revelations that it had used secret government information about a tax clampdown to market an avoidance plan to clients. **Page 45**

4 AngloGold Ashanti, one of the world's biggest goldminers, is moving its main listing from Johannesburg to New York instead of London, stoking fears that the UK market is struggling to attract leading companies. **Page 45**

5 Simon Thompson, 56, the chief executive of Royal Mail, has stepped down, saying that it was the right time for the company to move forward under new leadership. **Page 45**

6 The Japanese multinational Honda is to join the coming invasion of Chinese electric cars with a new tilt at the zero-emission market in Britain. Honda, which until two years ago was one of Britain's largest automotive manufacturers, is importing a fully electric small family car built in China, the e:Ny1, this year. **Page 48**

7 A Canadian court has dismissed a class action lawsuit alleging the former GSK heartburn drug Zantac caused cancer in a boost for the British company as it faces legal battles over the medication. **Page 49**

8 Ask Vodafone's critics why the UK telecoms company has underperformed and it boils down to one thing: a failure by the management to be radical in facing up to the challenges in its core European markets. Shares in the FTSE 100 group are valued at less than a third of the level they were ten years ago. **Page 50**

9 The Japanese conglomerate SoftBank could raise up to $10 billion from its New York listing of the British microchip designer Arm Holdings as early as the autumn, Bloomberg News reported. **Page 51**

10 As the head of global business at Meta Platforms, which owns Facebook and WhatsApp, the New York-based Mancunian Nicola Mendelsohn is responsible for the relationships with leading advertisers. After Meta's shares tanked last year as an advertising slowdown tipped sales into decline for the first time since it went public, it returned to growth in the first quarter. **The Manifesto, page 53**

THG boss lashes out at market as Apollo talks end

Helen Cahill, Isabella Fish

Matthew Moulding blamed "market manipulation" for the value destruction that has seen his company become vulnerable to private equity takeovers.

The multimillionaire founder of THG told his thousands of followers on LinkedIn yesterday that bankers, hedge funds and analysts had collectively depressed the valuation of the company in the years after it floated at a market capitalisation of £5.4 billion.

Shares in THG, formerly known as The Hut Group, have been on a rollercoaster ride since its public debut amid repeated disclosures about takeover approaches for the business.

The company's shares closed at 625p on their first day of trading on the London stock exchange in September 2020 but last night closed at 63p.

The stock has seen positive momentum in the past, when investors learned the board had received takeover offers. THG's shares climbed from 95p to 159p when it told investors about a number of approaches last year.

The company disclosed at its annual results in April 2022 that it had "received indicative proposals from numerous parties in recent weeks". Investors were told in May that THG had been approached with an offer by Nick Candy, and the company also said that its backer Belerion Capital had joined forces with King Street Capital Management to launch a £2.1 billion tilt at the company.

Neither the Candy or Belerion bids were progressed and by mid-June THG's share price had dropped below the level reached before the offers were disclosed. By October they had reached an all-time low of 32p.

In a post on LinkedIn, Moulding said the company had been forced to make its announcement on Apollo's recent bid by the Takeover Panel because the information had leaked. Apollo's bid had not been widely reported by the media. The Mail on Sunday had, however, published anonymous comments from an investor who told the paper Moulding had been approached by funds "looking at good assets that are undervalued".

THG said on April 17 that it had received a "highly preliminary and non-binding indicative proposal" from Apollo and its share price jumped from 66p to 96p. The company revealed to investors it had made an operating loss of £495.6 million a day later.

Moulding posted yesterday that "just about every major PE firm has inquired about taking THG private" and he insisted the company would be worth "billions more" if it delisted.

The entrepreneur generated a personal fortune of £830 million from THG's float but is sensitive about the pressures of running a public company. "Yes, it's unpleasant being listed in London," he said. "But I've spent 20 years building THG, from an idea while sat on my sofa, into a global group with sales of £2.2 billion. THG would be worth billions more away from the daily market manipulation involving bankers, hedge funds and pundits.

"Like all previous bidders, Apollo were told their bid valuation and structure was unacceptable. Yesterday Apollo set out how they could raise their bid further, ahead of a deadline set by the Takeover Panel. Their latest view on Ingenuity [THG's ecommerce wing] had it as being significantly more valuable than the whole of THG the day before the bid leaked."

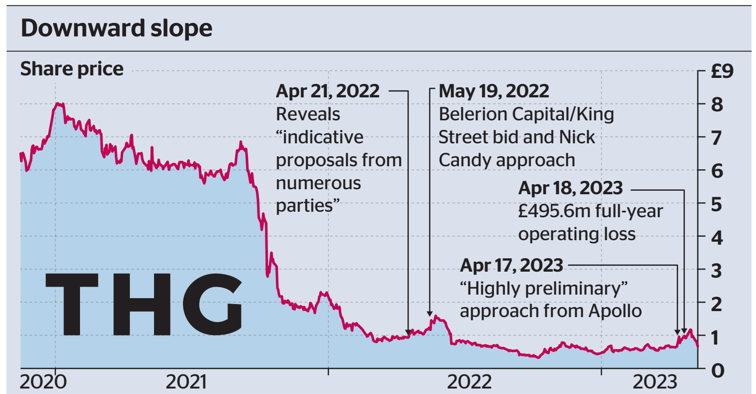
It is understood that Moulding's claims about Apollo's valuation of Ingenuity have not been well-received in the City and that his assertion was being challenged in some quarters.

Apollo has declined to comment. The alternative asset manager rarely makes public statements about ongoing discussions with company boards.

Apollo's team did, however, travel to THG's headquarters in Manchester to progress takeover talks and the private equity investor said it was serious about its interest. Moulding said Apollo wanted him to keep running the business and that the firm offered existing shareholders stakes in the private company.

However, Moulding complained yesterday that the bidders were "capitalising on a wildly low share price" and that the offer "wasn't right for THG".

Clive Black of Shore Capital said he was "amazed that Apollo had even looked at THG". He said that although he is a "big fan" of entrepreneurship, it would "put everyone out of their misery if Moulding were to take it off the market". Black added: "All the stuff about Ingenuity was ramped-up hyperbolic rhetoric that was above belief — it was nonsense and ended in tears."





Shares in The Hut Group, a health and

Behind the story

THG has rarely been out of the headlines since its blockbuster stock market debut in 2020 (Isabella Fish writes).

The health and beauty platform, co-founded in 2004 by Matthew Moulding and his fellow former Phones4u executive John Gallemore, became an investor favourite after floating in London at an opening valuation of £5.4 billion.

However, corporate governance concerns, questions about its lofty

First-quarter growth helps ease recession fear

Mehreen Khan Economics Editor

The UK economy eked out growth in the first quarter of the year, accelerating at a modest pace to ensure that the economy is not at immediate risk of recession.

Quarterly growth between January and March rose by 0.1 per cent compared with the same period last year, in line with economists' forecasts and matching weak growth figures recorded at the end of 2022.

The UK's growth outlook has brightened in recent months after a big fall in global energy prices reduced the chances of a recession hitting this year. A recession is defined as two consecutive quarters of falling growth.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) said that growth in March had declined by 0.3 per cent, following no growth in February and a 0.5 per cent expansion in January. Higher quarterly output was the result of a 0.5 per cent growth in the manufacturing sector, a 0.1 per cent rise in services and a 0.7 per cent acceleration in the construction industry. Samual Tombs, chief UK economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said that the UK remains the only G7 country in which the quarterly measure of GDP has not recovered to its pre-Covid peak.

"This chiefly reflects weakness in households' real spending, which was 2.3 per cent below its Q4 2019 level. But at least the magnitude of the underperformance is not increasing relative to other countries in Europe, which have faced a similarly enormous energy price shock," he said.

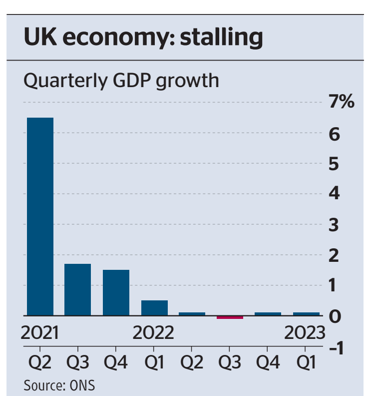
The UK's overall economic performance was hit by nationwide industrial action by civil servants demanding better pay. Output in education, health and public administration all declined in the first three months of the year as a result of strikes.

March's outright fall in growth could be attributable to the strikes, the ONS said, highlighting its business surveys, which have found that one in ten businesses across the country was affected by industrial action.

The figures come a day after the Bank of England revised up its growth outlook by the highest margin on record, wiping out its earlier predictions that the economy would succumb this year to the longest recession in half a century.

The Bank's upgrade was the result of a 40 per cent fall in global gas prices this year, coupled with government support for household energy bills and a better-than-expected global economy. The Bank expects annual growth of 0.25 per cent this year, compared with an earlier forecast of a 0.5 per cent contraction.

The UK's trade deficit fell by more than expected to £2.9 billion in March, as cheaper energy prices reduced the cost of imports.





beauty platform, have suffered since it listed in 2020 with a market value of £5.4 billion, with takeover bids unsuccessful

valuation and bulging losses have combined to push the shares down by more than 90 per cent for a market value of £1.2 billion.

The online retail group, which owns brands including LookFantastic and MyProtein, has been eyed up by several private equity houses because of its sinking share price. Last year it was subject to takeover interest from investors including the property tycoon Nick Candy, and a bid from Belerion Capital and King Street Capital Management that valued the business at £2 billion.

As THG rejects another takeover bid based on "inadequate valuations", it poses questions over the future of the business.

Russ Mould, investment director at AJ Bell, said "investors hoping a takeover would put both them and the company's torrid existence as a public entity out of their misery will be disappointed".

Last month the activist investor Kelso Group, founded last year by John Goold, said that if THG did not receive a takeover offer that reflected the value of its nutrition business, it should consider separating the division out.

Kelso said it had identified "significant intrinsic value" in the nutrition business as food and drinks manufacturers face investor pressure to diversify away from sugar and chocolate. The London-based investor drew up a list of potential suitors, including Nestlé, Coca-Cola and Mars.

Bruising years for head Mail man who sealed his own fate

Simon Thompson did not recover from his appearance before a Commons committee, **Robert Lea** writes

The disastrous tenure of the Royal Mail boss Simon Thompson has been terminated. In the job for not much more than two years, the 56-year-old chief executive presided over plunging losses and the worst industrial relations in a generation at the privatised national postal carrier.

He leaves with a year's pay, which, including other "golden goodbye" money, will add up to at least £680,000. He could yet get more if the company this year repeats its controversial move of paying Thompson bonuses that totalled £140,000 in 2022.

Royal Mail and its parent holding company, renamed International Distributions Services, is now seeking its fifth leader in five years.

The appointment of Thompson to the company in early 2021 had been a bit of a head-scratcher. A peripatetic career had taken him through various companies — Ocado, Morrisons, Apple, lastminute.com, Honda, HSBC. His last job before Royal Mail had been running the government's much-derided test-and-trace app during the pandemic.

Royal Mail's chairman, Keith Williams, a former British Airways chief executive, appointed Thompson despite his having no experience of running a listed company.

Thompson appears not to have learned much from his short-lived predecessor Rico Back, a German and non-dom Swiss resident, who decided to confront Royal Mail's trade unions. That was a policy in contrast to Royal Mail's first five years as a privatised, quoted company under Moya Greene, who had fostered strike-free long-term relationships with the Communication Workers Union.

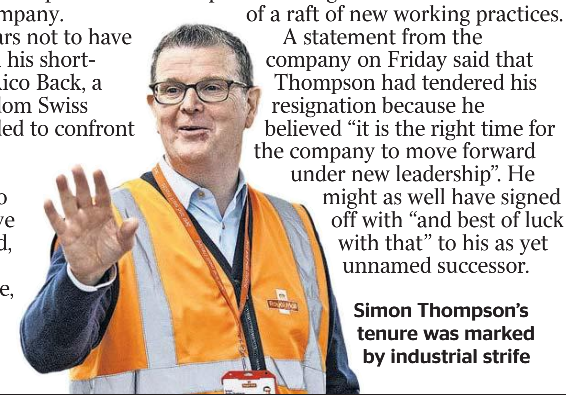
On Thompson's watch, Royal Mail went from record profits of £700 million a year during the pandemic to its UK parcels and letters business losing £1 million a day. His response was to blame the workforce for failing to agree to modernise — or as the unions argued, to condemn themselves to a race to the bottom in a parcel-delivery industry renowned for poor pay, terms and service levels.

It turned into a bruising encounter. The union went into formal dispute a year ago that led to all-out strikes in the run-up to last Christmas. Union leaders accused Thompson of the most relentless attack on a workforce since the miners' industrial strife in the 1980s, and unjust disciplinary actions against personnel.

What appears to have done for Thompson is the board's loss of confidence since a summons this year to appear before MPs. A tendency to evasiveness and obfuscation under scrutiny caught up with him and the chairman of the House of Commons business select committee recalled him to correct his evidence, accusing him of "intentionally or inadvertently" misleading them on Royal Mail working practices. A row over the use of devices to track delivery staff led to referrals to regulators for an investigation.

That the game was up for Thompson became apparent last month when Royal Mail finally capitulated to the unions and agreed to a 10 per cent pay rise, a commitment to future employee profit-sharing and the abandonment of a raft of new working practices.

A statement from the company on Friday said that Thompson had tendered his resignation because he believed "it is the right time for the company to move forward under new leadership". He might as well have signed off with "and best of luck with that" to his as yet unnamed successor.



Simon Thompson's tenure was marked by industrial strife

Tesco chief collects £4.4m pay packet after profits dip

Times Business Correspondent

The boss of Tesco was paid £4.4 million for the past year as shoppers continue to face record rises in food prices.

The payout for Ken Murphy was less than the £4.75 million package he received a year earlier.

The supermarket group's latest annual report shows Murphy's total pay deal was £4.44 million, including bonuses and other benefits, for the year to the end of February. That is about 197 times the pay of the average Tesco worker, according to the report.

The deal included a base salary of £1.37 million, while Murphy received £2.73 million in an annual bonus, alongside other benefits and pension payments. Imran Nawaz, the retailer's finance director, received £3 million for the year, including £1.36 million in bonuses. Murphy's base salary will increase by 3 per cent next year, while Nawaz will get a 4 per cent pay rise.

Operating profits at Tesco slipped by 6.9 per cent to £2.63 billion in the 12 months to the end of February, in line with City forecasts but down from £2.82 billion the year before.

Murphy said that the supermarket chain had been hit by "unprecedented levels of inflation in the prices we have paid our suppliers for their products, and the cost of running our own operations". Earnings also were affected by lower sales volumes, investment in the business and steep cost rises.

Shares in Tesco closed up yesterday by 2p, or 0.8 per cent, at 275¾p.

Musk reveals new Twitter executive

Callum Jones
US Business Correspondent

Elon Musk has named a top American advertising executive as the new boss of Twitter.

Linda Yaccarino, a prominent figure at NBCUniversal, abruptly left the American media group after she was revealed to be in talks about joining the social network.

Yaccarino, 60, "will focus primarily on business operations, while I focus on product design and new technology," Musk said, confirming her appointment. "Looking forward to working with Linda to transform this platform into X, the everything app."

A day earlier, Musk had announced that he had lined up a boss to take charge of the platform he bought for $44 billion last year and said that they would start in about six weeks. Yaccarino, who chaired the global advertising and partnerships unit at NBCUniversal, will be tasked with stabilising Twitter, which has endured months of turmoil in the wake of Musk's $44 billion takeover last October.

While the billionaire tycoon has spoken in broad terms of expanding Twitter into a "super app" and creating new sources of revenue, it was reliant on advertising for 91 per cent of its sales before his acquisition.



Elon Musk's role will be in design and technology

Some of its key clients balked at Musk's early decisions, which included reinstating many suspended accounts and leaking internal documents.

In a statement issued by her former employer, Yaccarino made no mention of why she was leaving. Instead, she said it had been an "absolute honour" to "lead the most incredible team" at NBCUniversal.

Musk, who also leads Tesla, the electric carmaker, and SpaceX, the rocket and satellite business, pledged to step aside as Twitter's chief executive after posting a poll on the platform in December on whether he should continue. His removal was backed by 57.5 per cent of the 17.5 million votes cast.

He has said that he intends to remain as executive chairman and chief technology officer, overseeing product, software and systems decisions. This would leave his successor as chief executive to focus on other areas of the business, including advertising.

HONDA



Honda hopes buyers of the e:Ny1 will accept a price of more than £40,000 for its Chinese-built car because of the brand's reputation for engineering and reliability

Honda makes its move for new electric era in Britain

Robert Lea Industrial Editor

The Japanese multinational Honda is to join the coming invasion of Chinese electric cars with a new tilt at the zero-emission market in Britain.

Honda, which until the closure of its Swindon factory two years ago was one of Britain's largest automotive manufacturers and employers, is importing a fully electric small family car built in China, the e:Ny1, later this year.

"This is the start of a new era for Honda," Tom Gardner, senior vice-president at Honda Motor Europe, said.

The car is likely to be priced at well in excess of £40,000, getting on for twice as much as an equivalent petrol model. It will come with a single-charge range of about 250 miles, which Honda believes will be sufficient for its customers, having harvested usage data from a first attempt at the electric market with its "Honda e" runaround.

The company will target the e:Ny1 at its existing band of loyal and mainly older owners of Civic or Jazz models who have not yet taken the plunge into electric vehicle (EV) ownership.

Executives also believe that the e:Ny1 will be attractive to a new generation of electric vehicle buyers in Britain who may have been put off buying unfamiliar Chinese brands such as Ora or BYD, which have already arrived in Britain. The e:Ny1 will also be Chinese in origin, produced at Honda's new factory in Wuhan.

"Our positioning is around our engineering integrity, our brand reliability and our service support," Rebecca Adamson, Honda UK's head of automobile, said. "It is a reasonable assertion that customers are going to be more confident with someone they trust and know and with a strong reputation for reliability."

The order book for the e:Ny1 — the branding follows the auto industry fad for alphanumeric symbols and Honda sales people would prefer that it is not pronounced "anyone" — opens in the autumn for deliveries early next year.

Honda executives defended the pricing of the e:Ny1, which could be as much as 20 per cent more expensive than the similarly dimensioned £38,000 Volkswagen iD4, saying that "sustainable profitability" was more important for the company than sales volumes.

The UK will be a key target market for the car as the country already accounts for nearly a third of Honda sales in Europe and UK zero-emission targets are among the most advanced.

The vehicle will not, however, represent a headlong dive into the zero-emission market for Honda.

20%

Potential price premium above Volkswagen's iD4

Honda sources

Only two more Honda electric models for the UK are expected in the next three to four years and the release of the e:Ny1 coincides with a renewed push into the production of hybrids: a sixth generation upgrade of its bestselling CR-V large SUV as a hybrid and plug-in hybrid (with an electric range of only 50 miles) and a new smaller hybrid model, the ZR-V, with an electric range of only a few miles, both also made in China.

Echoing recent comments on EV strategy by its larger Japanese rival Toyota, which has been criticised for being slow to embrace zero-emission cars, Gardner said: "We are broadening our range of low-emission vehicles because not all customers are ready to make the shift to full EV."

Year-on-year growth in car registrations

	2023 (to April)	2022	Market share
Hybrid electric	80,887	62,063	12.9%
Battery electric	96,755	77,064	15.4%
Mild hybrid (petrol)	90,468	73,474	14.4%
Petrol	267,444	232,402	42.6%
Plug-in hybrid electric	40,360	36,210	6.4%
Mild hybrid (diesel)	25,859	25,103	4.1%
Diesel	25,477	30,411	4.1%

Source: SMMT

Behind the story

The new range of vehicles from Honda is a case of what might have been for the automotive manufacturing industry in Britain (Robert Lea writes).

In the single biggest reverse for UK car assembly since the crash of Rover nearly two decades ago, Honda announced the closure of its Swindon plant in 2019. It finally shut in 2021 with the loss of 3,200 jobs.

At its height, before the global financial crisis in 2008, Swindon produced 230,000 vehicles a year but over the next decade it appeared to be in a state of managed decline.

It is impossible to say whether the latest models would have been produced in Swindon, historically a manufacturer of the Civic. The closure ended the chance for Britain to piggyback on a global car company committed to low and zero-emission vehicles.

Much was made of the proximity of Honda's decision to the EU referendum and subsequent fears of trade barriers with the rest of Europe. Honda opened Swindon in 1992, coinciding with the creation of the EU single market. That the UK had no industrial strategy in place to attract battery-making gigafactories has also been cited as a factor.



Ian Howells, below, executive vice-president of Honda Europe, said the die was already cast. Honda's European market share was small and is less than 2 per cent in the UK. Swindon, alongside a plant in Turkey, was closed in an attempt to make the company more profitable. "It was part of a global decision," he said.

Surge can't lift Jaguar group out of the red

Robert Lea

Sales revenues, profits and cash are all heading in the right direction at JLR, the group behind Range Rover and Jaguar, but Britain's largest automotive employer still failed to break even in its latest financial year.

The West Midlands-based company, which has scrapped its existing Jaguar model range and is investing £15 billion in the next five years producing luxury electric Jaguars, reported a near-50 per cent increase in revenues to £7 billion in the first three months this year.

That added up to revenues for the financial year to the end of March of £22 billion. In the last six months that brought in £1.3 billion of free cash flow.

However, pre-tax profits of £368 million from January to March still left the company in the red for the year with a final tally loss of £64 million. The company said that profitability had been affected by "supplier claims largely related to volume constraints".

JLR said it was benefiting from a backlog built up during the pandemic, where because of its failure to access computer chips it was left unable to fulfil orders, but which also enabled it to crank up prices.The order book stands at 200,000 vehicles, which at the present sales rate of 95,000 units a quarter should be serviced by autumn.

In the last year the company sold 158,000 Range Rovers and 86,000 Slovakian-built Defenders. Sales of Jaguar dwindled to just 42,000 and with stock in run-off, fewer than 10,000 were sold in the last quarter.

Sales were up in all regions but deliveries to China, once a lucrative cash cow for the company accounting for nearly 30 per cent of the business, have dwindled to just 13 per cent. The US now accounts for more than a quarter of all sales.

The company is also transitioning its stable of Range Rovers and Defenders to zero-emission models.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Stock markets across the world remain volatile, while British companies are scrambling to cope with the effects of soaring costs. With the situation changing by the hour, keeping up to date is essential. Get the latest news and market reaction by 8am, and analysis at 12.30pm, direct by email from the Business Editor, Richard Fletcher, and the Business News Editor, Martin Strydom.

Sign up at **home.thetimes.co.uk/myNews**



Dominic O'Connell



Ryanair may be a punchline but the joke is on the competition

Hating Ryanair used to be a national sport. People vied for the worst tale of teeming check-ins, piratical baggage charges or late-running flights. The tide has turned, though: Ryanair has made big efforts to cuddle up to customers and it does, as it so frequently boasts, have a very good punctuality and lost bags record.

There are still many who loathe it, however. On its Tripadvisor page just over a quarter of the reviews rate it as "terrible". The airline revels in baiting those who complain. It has a customer service account on Twitter, but also one that carries nothing but caustic comments about complainers — and lots of jokes about footballers and French air-traffic controllers.

Whatever you think of Ryanair, there is going to be a lot more of it. The deal it struck this week with Boeing puts it on course to be the dominant European airline for the next generation and beyond. It will take up to 300 aircraft over the next decade, meaning that even after it retires some of its older planes, it will by 2034 have the capacity to carry 300 million passengers a year, about a third of the annual number of air travellers in Europe pre-pandemic. It is on track to carry 168 million people this year and is the world's biggest carrier of international passengers (it still lags in total passengers behind the big US and Chinese carriers, but most of their trips are domestic).

The arrival of the new aircraft, and the effect they will have on Ryanair's operating costs, will entrench its dominance in Europe. It is difficult to see how its grip can be broken.

Ryanair's rough and ready approach to customer service might, in other industries, become a fatal weakness. There are many examples of wannabe disruptors that start well but fall apart because customers would not stay loyal. In aviation, however, customers are greedy and have short memories.

Bob Crandall, the US airline executive credited with many of the innovations that created modern air travel, including frequent flyer programmes, computer reservation systems and discount fares for advance purchases, knew all about the basic driver of consumer choice. I interviewed him when an upstart airline called Southwest (the company that spawned a host of low-cost copycats around the world, including Ryanair) was starting to make inroads into American Airlines, the giant US carrier he was then running. Surely American had nothing to fear from such a titch? "Son," he replied pityingly through a cloud of cigarette smoke, "people will cut their own grandmother's throat for one dollar off an airline ticket."



They still will. Ryanair's simple route to domination has been, and will be, low fares. To offer low prices consistently and still make money, it has to have lower costs than the competition. It does, thanks to a refusal to deviate from a no-frills product and a pursuit of the lowest possible operating costs, notably the cost of its aircraft. Comparisons of airline costs are always fraught with difficulty, calculations are skewed by different companies' accounting policies and route networks (longer average trips mean lower average costs), but most independent analyses show that Ryanair is the lowest-cost operator in Europe, with Wizz Air of Hungary its only close rival.

Robert Boyle, founder of GridPoint Consulting and a former strategy director of IAG, the owner of British Airways, Iberia and Aer Lingus, came to that conclusion last year. A pre-pandemic comparison by him had put Ryanair and Wizz neck-and-neck, with easyJet lagging behind. Last year's numbers showed that Ryanair had opened up a considerable lead, with costs per available seat-kilometre (the common measurement of airline cost, representing how much is spent to fly one seat one kilometre) 11 per cent lower than Wizz; easyJet, astonishingly, was 85 per cent higher than Ryanair.

Boyle also had a go at penetrating one of the industry's great mysteries: how much Ryanair pays for its planes. When a deal with Boeing or Airbus is announced, the real price is (almost) never disclosed. With the bumper order last week the figure used was $40 billion, arrived at by using the list prices quoted by Boeing. Few carriers ever pay full list price and jealously guard how much they actually pay.

Analysts think that Ryanair has had a big advantage from negotiating great deals on aircraft and Boyle tried to quantify just how great. Working backwards from the airline's accounts, he calculated that in a previous big order in 2005, Ryanair had paid Boeing $27.1 million per plane, a discount of about 62 per cent on the list price. In a later 2013 deal Ryanair paid $35.8 million, again about 60 per cent less than the advertised number.

There are indications that the price was not quite so keen this time. Michael O'Leary, Ryanair's chief executive, walked away from negotiations with Boeing two years ago and may have been brought back to the table by a realisation that its order books were filling up fast. Hang on too long for a better price and Ryanair risked missing the boat.

Even if they were not bought at a rock-bottom price, the new planes should still keep Ryanair's costs lower than the competition. Analysts at Bank of America point out that the new planes will carry 228 passengers, 39 more than the present fleet, but burn 20 per cent less fuel. They look at overall costs using a different metric from Boyle: cost per passenger rather than cost per unit of capacity. They calculate average cost per passenger at €31, almost the same as before the pandemic, despite the inflation of the past two years. In Bank of America's view, Ryanair will have a 30 per cent share of all European traffic in a decade's time.

What might derail the juggernaut? Given its advantages, it is difficult to see where the challenge will come from. But the airline industry is replete with the carcasses of former champions — PanAm, TWA, British Caledonian — and there are always investors with a Biggles complex. One hungry rival lurks outside the EU: Turkish Airlines, which has grown rapidly in recent years and is part-owned by the Turkish government, is rumoured to be on the verge of an aircraft order double the size of Ryanair's.

Dominic O'Connell is business presenter for Times Radio

GSK hails court ruling on claim of cancer link

Alex Ralph

A Canadian court has dismissed a class action lawsuit alleging that the former GSK heartburn drug Zantac caused cancer, in a boost for the British company as it faces a series of legal battles over the medication.

GSK welcomed the decision of the British Columbia supreme court, which found that the claimants had failed to raise a "triable issue".

Shares in GSK and other global drug companies that have supplied Zantac were sold off by investors in August on concerns about potential multibillion-pound liabilities. Ranitidine, marketed as Zantac, helped to fund GSK's global expansion and became one of the first prescription blockbusters, generating more than $1 billion in annual sales.

GSK is defending thousands of cases in the US and said that it would "continue to vigorously defend proposed class actions by ranitidine users that have been filed in Ontario and Quebec, as well as individual actions filed by ranitidine users in Canada".

GSK quoted the British Columbia court ruling: "Given the uncontroverted evidence that neither ranitidine nor NDMA are reliably associated with increased cancer risk, and the absence of evidence that ranitidine or NDMA cause cancer in humans, the plaintiff has failed to raise a bona fide triable issue regarding injury due to the ingestion and/or purchase of ranitidine."

The drug decreases the amount of acid produced by cells in the lining of the stomach and it has become a popular treatment for heartburn. It was released as a prescription drug by GSK in the 1980s before the rights to the over-the-counter product in America were sold to other drug companies.

GSK said since 2019 there had been 13 peer-reviewed epidemiological studies looking at human data on the use of ranitidine: "The [court] decision recognises that after more than three years of extensive study, the scientific consensus is that there is no consistent or reliable evidence that ranitidine increases the risk for any type of cancer," it said.

GSK's defence was given a boost in the US in December when about 50,000 cases were dismissed at a pre-trial federal court hearing in Florida.

Separately, GSK confirmed that it had sold 240 million shares in Haleon, the consumer healthcare joint venture it demerged in July, at a price of 335p per share, raising about £804 million. GSK retains a 10.3 per cent stake.

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Vodafone banks on new boss to make right calls

Emma Powell

Ask Vodafone's critics to pinpoint the reason for the UK telecoms giant's underperformance over the past decade and the verdict boils down to one thing: a failure by management to be radical in facing up to the challenges in its core European markets.

Shares in the FTSE 100 group, once regarded as a mainstay in the portfolios of UK income investors, are valued at less than a third of what they were ten years ago and lag well behind the returns generated by the index.

The group has been hamstrung by competition in the mobile and broadband markets, operational mishaps and the tricky balancing act between investing in its infrastructure and paying generous dividends to shareholders.

Some analysts have questioned whether the appointment of Margherita Della Valle, its former finance chief, as permanent chief executive will bring with it the bold changes needed.

"She's been in the company for 29 years, she's been very visible as CFO, she has made strong defences of the dividend and of things like its approach to German fixed line investment, so I don't think she has as much strategic flexibility as a new CEO would have had," Carl Murdock-Smith, an analyst at Berenberg, said.

Others say that her deep knowledge of the company will expedite change without the learning curve required by an external candidate. Della Valle will deliver her first set of trading figures to the market as permanent boss on Tuesday. Some areas have already been identified by analysts as potentially ripe for attack.



Competition in the core markets of the UK, Germany, Italy and Spain has cut revenue

Sell assets

Reducing the complexity of the business by offloading underperforming businesses is the clearest way Vodafone could reduce costs and free up capital to be invested elsewhere. The businesses in Spain and Italy, core markets that have struggled to push the top line higher, are the obvious candidates.

The latter has recorded 19 consecutive quarters of declining service revenue growth. Last year Vodafone rejected an approach from a French competitor, Iliad, and a British private equity firm, Apax Partners, to acquire its Italian business, arguing it was "not in the best interests of shareholders".

"At the moment the question mark in investors' minds about Vodafone is, will they sell assets?" Murdock-Smith said. He values the Italian business at around €9 billion. The Iliad offer is said to have been more than €11 billion.

Consolidate in key markets

Competition in four core markets — the UK, Germany, Italy and Spain — has been one of the biggest challenges in boosting Vodafone's return on investment. Consolidation would stop some of the price wars and cut costs.

In the UK, a merger with Three, the fourth largest mobile network operator, is expected this month, creating the UK's biggest mobile network operator. The new company could create about €400 million of pre-tax synergies, Jefferies, the broker, estimates.

The tie-up would face regulatory scrutiny and Unite, the union, is campaigning against it. Other markets could be ripe for merger or partnership deals. "The share price shows you that it doesn't matter if you're really good at extracting cost efficiencies as long as you have very little control over what happens in your revenue line," John Karidis, an analyst at Numis, said.

Cut the dividend

In 2019, Nick Read, Della Valle's predecessor, cut the dividend for the first time since 1990, reducing the payout by 40 per cent to 9 euro cents per share, a response to rising leverage and the cost of spectrum for 5G. Will Della Valle feel the need to rebase the payout again?

Analysts forecast that the group will maintain its 9 cents a share return for at least four years. Net debt remains high, standing at €45.5 billion, or more than 1.8 times market value. But the sale of a stake in its Vantage Towers business, which will net €6.6 billion, should reduce net debt towards the bottom end of a target range of 2.5-3 times adjusted earnings. The group has also bought the spectrum required for the 5G rollout and the auctions for 6G are not until the 2030s. The question is whether Della Valle decides to increase expenditure to try to improve performance.

Invest more in Germany

Engineering a turnaround in Germany, which accounts for almost 40 per cent of Vodafone's adjusted profit, is crucial for performance. The bungled implementation of legislation introduced last year, which made it easier for consumers to cancel contracts, has pushed up customer losses. However, organic service revenue growth was patchy before the reforms were implemented.

Investing more in accelerating the build-out and upgrade of fibre broadband to homes across Germany could help address the underperformance in this market by improving cash returns.

That could be either independently financed, or more likely, through increased or accelerated partnerships, in the vein of a 50/50 joint venture agreed with Altice, the French telecoms group owned by BT's largest shareholder Patrick Drahi, last year. The venture will invest up to €7 billion over six years, of which 70 per cent is expected to be financed by debt that will be non-recourse to Vodafone and Altice.



Will City make a song and dance over BT results?



Pension fund fear after Capita hack

Katie Prescott

Nearly half a million members of the UK's largest private sector pension scheme have been warned they may have had their data stolen during a recent cyberattack on Capita.

The Universities Superannuation Scheme (USS), including retired and active staff from academia, said that details were held on Capita servers that were accessed by hackers in March.

The information that was potentially accessed dated from early in 2021 and included dates of birth and national insurance numbers.

While it has not been confirmed that data was stolen, Capita has advised USS to behave as if it was and to warn members accordingly. The scheme is writing to those who may have been affected to offer support and advice.



The USS pension scheme said it had been alerted by Capita

USS said it had reported the incident to the Information Commissioner's Office, the Pensions Regulator and the Financial Conduct Authority.

Bill Galvin, USS group chief executive, said: "We are very confident members' pensions remain secure. We have reviewed our own systems and controls to ensure they remain robust."

USS was established in 1974 as the main university pension scheme and has about £90 billion of assets.

Capita is the UK government's largest software and IT services provider. A group of Russian hackers known as Black Basta has claimed responsibility for the cyberattack.

A spokesman for Capita said: "We continue to work closely with specialist advisers to investigate the incident. We are now informing those we have identified to be affected."



EE

BT owns the EE mobile network whose adverts feature the actor Kevin Bacon. The group delivers its annual results on Thursday

The rehabilitation of BT Group will be in the spotlight next week when the London-based telecoms heavyweight delivers annual results to the market (Emma Powell writes).

The shares have staged a tentative rally since the start of this year after years of disappointing performance. Broadband price increases that have been introduced this year, and the potential for BT to be a passive beneficiary of consolidation in the UK mobile network market through the potential Vodafone/ Three tie-up, are two possible reasons given by analysts.

The core threat faced by BT is competition to Openreach, its broadband arm, from Virgin Media and a number of so-called alt-nets, particularly CityFibre, backed by the Goldman Sachs infrastructure investment arm.

BT is financing a £15 billion planned upgrade of its broadband network to full fibre by 2026. However, a battle for customers and the risk of price wars could snatch away the rewards that the telecoms giant hopes to glean in the long term from its costly investment.

An inability to grow revenues, along with increasing capital expenditure on the Openreach build-out, has restricted cashflows generated by the group. In November, the chief executive Philip Jansen cut guidance for free cashflow, before pension deficit payments, this year to the lower end of the £1.3 billion to £1.5 billion range previously expected, after accelerating the Openreach rollout.

Free cashflow guidance for the current financial year will be in sharp focus when Jansen updates the market on Thursday. Analysts think it will come in at £1.42 billion for last year and remain flat for the 12 months ended next March.

Whether it comes in on target will depend on how BT fares in the battle for retail and business customers and whether inflationary cost pressures hit returns.

Ramsay has restaurants back on boil

Dominic Walsh

Gordon Ramsay's restaurant empire recorded a threefold increase in revenue to almost £80 million last year as it bounced back from Covid lockdowns and opened seven new restaurants.

The TV chef's eponymous business reached a total of 50 establishments — 36 company-run outlets across the UK and 14 licensed locations in Europe, the Middle East and Asia — and is targeting 100 globally by mid-2024.

Gordon Ramsay Restaurants, which was founded in 1997, now has 38 outlets in the UK, including its four profitable "super-premium" sites in London — Restaurant Gordon Ramsay, Pétrus, Savoy Grill and Lucky Cat — and two more recently opened sites within the Savoy Hotel. A second Lucky Cat opens next month in Manchester.

Its "premium casual" category opened Bread Street Kitchen & Bar sites in Edinburgh and Liverpool during the year, while there has since been an opening at Battersea Power Station. Further additions are planned "more widely across the UK". Its "casual dining" unit is expanding under the Street Burgers and Street Pizza brands.

According to accounts for the year to August 28, Gordon Ramsay Restaurants delivered an increase in turnover from £26.2 million to £78.9 million, of which £75.8 million was generated in the UK and the balance of £3.1 million from licence fees overseas. It said the rise in takings, which is well ahead of the £54.7 million in 2019, was "a result of the uninterrupted full year of trading together with the sales contribution from newly opened restaurants".

On an adjusted basis, underlying earnings swung from a loss of £1.1 million to a profit of £6.2 million, while pre-tax losses narrowed from £6.8 million to £1.1 million. Exceptional costs totalled £3 million, mostly in pre-opening launch costs for new sites and an impairment to three sites.

The amount received by the company under the furlough scheme fell from £3.3 million to £20,000. The highest-paid director, assumed to be the chief executive Andy Wenlock, 50, collected £517,000, up from £327,000 the year before. The average number of staff during the year almost doubled to 1,138.

At the year's end, the company had net debt of £27.3 million, including a loan from Ramsay, 56, of £8.25 million.

In February it acquired the Pizza East brand, while the Savoy Grill reopened last month after being refurbished.

John Lewis staff body shows yellow card to Sharon White

Isabella Fish

More than half of the 61-strong partnership council of John Lewis have delivered a stinging rebuke to Dame Sharon White and her leadership.

In a breakdown of how the council, which is made up of staff elected by workers, voted at a biannual meeting on Wednesday, 41 said they disagreed with the proposal that the group had "confidence in the progress of the partnership under the chairman's leadership over the past year, in relation to the purpose, principles and rules laid out in the constitution". A further ten "strongly disagreed".

In voting on a second proposal, that the staff council supported White to remain as leader, 37 agreed while five strongly agreed and 12 disagreed.

White, 56, has come under pressure as losses ballooned to £234 million in the retail group's latest results.

A potential plan reported by The Sunday Times to raise funds by selling a minority stake in the business, thus diluting its partnership model, also went down badly.

In her speech this week to the council at the Odney Club, a holiday retreat in Berkshire owned by the partnership, White assured members that the John Lewis Partnership would "always be an employee-owned business — no ifs, no buts, there is absolutely no question of demutualisation. Our model is the very reason I joined the partnership."

SoftBank eyes $10bn for Arm listing

Callum Jones
US Business Correspondent

SoftBank could raise up to $10 billion from its New York listing of the British microchip designer Arm Holdings as early as the autumn, according to reports.

The Japanese conglomerate has started to test investor appetite for the initial public offering, which could take place in New York by September, Bloomberg News reported, citing sources with knowledge of the matter.

It comes just weeks after Arm confidentially filed for a US listing, submitting a registration statement to the market regulator.

SoftBank's decision to choose New York over London, where Arm used to be listed, was a significant blow for Britain and the City of London when it was announced in March. Arm has said that it will consider a secondary UK listing "in due course".



SoftBank's decision to list Arm in New York was a blow to the City of London

Masayoshi Son, SoftBank's chairman and chief executive, previously expressed hope that Arm's re-listing will be the "the largest IPO in semiconductor history". The group is hoping to clinch a valuation of more than $50 billion, according to reports. SoftBank acquired Arm for £24 billion in 2016. Neither company immediately responded to a request for comment on plans for the IPO yesterday.

Bankers across a string of institutions including Goldman Sachs, JPMorgan Chase, Barclays and Mizuho Financial are working on the listing.

SoftBank has been paving the way for an IPO of Arm, returning it to the public markets, for over a year.

A plan to sell the Cambridge-based chip designer in a $66 billion deal to Nvidia, the world's largest semiconductor business, collapsed last February after the companies faced intense international scrutiny from regulators due to competition concerns.

SoftBank's American Depository Receipt shares fell by 3.1 per cent to $18.38 in early trading in New York.

Glass half-empty for Diageo as the lockdown boom fades



Jessica Newman ***Market report***

For the past three years investors in Diageo have been raising their glasses as its stock rose by about 30 per cent on the London market.

That was until yesterday, when shares in the drinks giant behind brands including Guinness, Johnnie Walker and Smirnoff retreated amid fears in the City that the party could be over.

While the business is no doubt stronger than it was in 2019, questions linger about its North American market now the lockdown-induced sales boom is fading.

Growth in the US, which accounts for nearly 40 per cent of Diageo's sales and close to half of profits, is expected to continue to moderate, Jefferies warned as it reduced its recommendation from "buy" to "hold." The analysts noted: "As we enter a period of hiatus for Diageo's US growth, we see a risk that the shares tread water until growth returns to the medium-term trend of between 4 per cent and 5 per cent."

There was no treading water for the shares, though, as the downgrade dragged Diageo down 85p, or 2.4 per cent, to an eight-week low of £35.34½. Diageo underperformed the wider FTSE 100, which rose 24.04 points, or 0.3 per cent, to 7,754.62 as investors breathed a sigh of relief after data showed that the UK economy grew slightly in the first quarter.

Over the shorter trading week, however, the index shed 23.76 points, or 0.3 per cent which leaves it down 1.5 per cent on the month so far but still 4.1 per cent higher since the start of the year.

The FTSE 250, however, slipped 77.93 points, or 0.4 per cent, to 19,188.37, meaning that over the week the index lost 264.13 points, or 1.4 per cent.

Climbing the FTSE 100 risers' board was **Beazley,** whose shares perked up 17½p, or 3 per cent, to 604p after reporting an impressive set of quarterly figures.

Bargain hunters tapped **Airtel Africa,** which improved 3½p, or 3 per cent, to 115¼p having come under heavy selling pressure in the previous session following disappointing results, while **4imprint Group** bounced off five-month lows to jump to the top of the mid-cap index, closing up 275p, or 6.6 per cent, to £44.75.

Investors welcomed a Canadian court's decision to dismiss a proposed class action against a **GSK** heartburn drug over potential cancer risk, lifting the drugs giant 25½p, or 1.8 per cent, to £14.70¼.

Property stocks were out of favour as Goldman Sachs turned bearish on **Great Portland Estates** and **Derwent London,** which analysts reckon are exposed to the "worsening fundamentals" in the London office market. That sent Great Portland's shares down 23¼p, or 4.5 per cent, to 488½p, while Derwent fell 102p, or 4.5 per cent, to £21.70.

Back in the FTSE 100, **British Land** and **Land Securities** are both unveiling their annual results next week. British Land shed 11p, or 2.9 per cent, to 371¼p and Land Securities lost 11¾p, or 1.9 per cent, to 614½p.

Wall Street report

A sharp fall in consumer sentiment reinforced bearish attitudes over talks in Congress on the government debt ceiling. The Dow Jones industrial average shed 8.89 points, or 0.03 per cent, to 33,300.62, a fall of 1.1 per cent over the week.



ASK ALEXA OR GOOGLE HOME TO PLAY VIRGIN RADIO LISTEN ON DAB RADIO

Virgin Orbit delays asset-bidding takeoff

Virgin Orbit is planning to move back the deadline for prospective bidders to buy its assets by almost a week. The satellite launch company, founded by the billionaire Sir Richard Branson, filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection last month after struggling to secure long-term funding following a failed satellite launch in January. The company laid off roughly 85 per cent of its 750 employees and had listed assets of about $243 million and total debt at $153.5 million as of the end of September. The delayed bidding process is related to "ironing out some details and giving more time to get deals done", according to one source. The development was first reported by Sky News. Virgin Orbit went public two years ago at a valuation of about $3 billion but the January mishap left it scrambling for new funding and forced it to halt operations.

MPs to quiz CMA chiefs on merger ambitions

MPs on the Commons business and trade select committee will scrutinise the leadership of the Competition and Markets Authority on its ambitions for the body after controversial interventions in high-profile merger attempts. Last month the regulator blocked Microsoft's $69 billion takeover of Activision Blizzard, the US computer games group. MPs are likely to ask the CMA chiefs how they plan to balance protecting business confidence with promoting competition. The witnesses will also be asked about the watchdog's relationship with big tech firms such as Microsoft that have suggested they will take a more combative approach to regulation in future. Committee members are also likely to ask how the authority intends to approach regulating a growing market for artificial intelligence.

Consumer sentiment lowest since November

Consumer sentiment in the United States has fallen to a six-month low amid concern over the threat of recession and a potential government default on its debts. A closely watched survey found that sentiment among Americans had declined 9.1 per cent to 57.7 between April and May — the weakest reading since November, and short of economists' expectations. The report, released by the University of Michigan, underlines apprehension across the world's largest economy. Growth has slowed markedly in the US since the turn of the year, according to official data. For more than a year, the Federal Reserve rapidly raised interest rates in a bid to bring down inflation. With policymakers at the central bank next set to convene in June, they are contemplating when to end this as price growth fades.

The day's biggest movers

Company	Change
4imprint Group Bounces off five-month lows	6.6%
Airtel Africa Investors move in on recent weakness	3%
Beazley Strong start to the year	3%
Redrow Berenberg upgrades to "buy" rating	2.9%
3i Group Follow-though buying after solid annual results	1.7%
Diageo Jefferies turns bearish amid US growth concerns	-2.4%
British Land Annual results due next week	-2.9%
Derwent London Company's "buy" recommendation removed by Goldman Sachs	-4.5%
Great Portland Estates Goldman Sachs cuts to "neutral" rating	-4.5%
NextEnergy Solar Fund Investors dislike operational update	-5.2%

‘The metaverse and AI are happy bedfellows, they always have been’

Nicola Mendelsohn is the British advertising star playing for Mark Zuckerberg’s team, **Callum Jones** reports

Whenever Nicola Mendelsohn scrolls through Instagram, chances are an advert related to weddings will appear in her feed. Her daughter’s getting married, after all, and they often swap ideas about the big day. The app is designed to pick up on such things and serve up relevant adverts.

As a top executive at Meta Platforms, which owns Facebook and WhatsApp, Mendelsohn is responsible for the company’s relationships with heavyweight advertisers and ensuring they promote whatever they’re selling on its platforms. All Meta wants, she says, is to provide people with “advertising that they want to see”.

Meta built an advertising business with annual sales of more than $110 billion around this acute focus on personalisation. But the way technology giants use data has come under scrutiny in recent years amid concerns around online privacy. After Apple updated software on devices like the iPhone to make it harder for digital advertisers to track users, last year Meta estimated the change could cost it $10 billion in lost sales.

Meta can sell ads “in a way that respects the privacy of the data that people are sharing”, according to Mendelsohn, while targeting them at specific demographics like the mothers of brides-to-be. Personalised ads and privacy are not incompatible, she insists. Has the world’s largest social media business always got the balance right? “People’s attitudes have changed over time, and so I think we needed to react to the ways in which people’s attitudes have changed.”

Ten years have passed since Mendelsohn was promised a ride on board a rocketship. The offer came from Sheryl Sandberg, chief operating officer at Meta, then called Facebook, not long after a turbulent launch on the stock market as it searched for someone to lead its business across Europe, the Middle East and Africa.

Born and raised in Manchester, Mendelsohn was already flying high in advertising by the time she started talking to Facebook. First at Bartle Bogle Hegarty in the 1990s and then Grey London, she made her name by winning business for the agencies. “We always knew she was going to be a star,” Martin Jones, the veteran adland executive, says. “To this degree? I’m not sure anyone predicted it.”

Moving in 2008 to Karmarama, a smaller player, she oversaw a vast expansion. She says she initially hesitated when the prospect of boarding Facebook first surfaced, although the appointment did not come as a surprise to others. “It was inevitable she was going to go,” one former colleague says.

Meta, founded by Mark Zuckerberg in 2004, has cleared the stratosphere since Mendelsohn joined in June 2013. At the time, nine months after buying Instagram for $1 billion, the group had 699 million daily active users across its platforms and $1.8 billion in quarterly sales. Now, just over 3 billion people visit its apps every day and it reported revenue of $28.6 billion in the first quarter.

As head of its global business group, Mendelsohn is among a handful of executives tasked with fuelling the engines that power Meta and preserving its ties with deep-pocketed advertisers. The company has an “extraordinary” reach, but faces “so much competition” from the likes of TikTok, the fast-growing video app. Meta is battling to retain users’ attention — and the dollars of advertisers seeking to catch it. “We need to make sure that as a company, we’re continuing to innovate, that we’re creating the formats that people like,” Mendelsohn says.

Long-time associates of Mendelsohn describe a consummate networker. According to folklore, she once approached George Clooney, whom she had never met, at the Soho House members’ club in New York and introduced him to Daryl Hannah, whom she had also never met. She was awarded a CBE for services to the creative industries in 2015. Nowadays, most weeks “probably will involve an airport”, she says, meeting with advertisers and agencies worldwide. The travel itinerary can be full-on “but that’s the life that I like and I enjoy”.

In October 2021, Zuckerberg changed course. Facebook rebranded as Meta, reflecting its focus on constructing the metaverse: a digital realm deemed by many in Silicon Valley to be the internet’s next frontier. It was, and still is, an expensive bet; this year, in the first quarter, Meta’s metaverse-focused Reality Labs unit generated $3.99 billion in losses. The business still relies on its social networks for about 99 per cent of revenues.

The pivot was always billed as an investment in tomorrow. Not long after the change of direction, however, Wall Street balked. Investors started to question Meta’s plans to spend heavily on its dreams of the future, when the economic conditions of the present were taking a wrong turn. Its shares tanked by as much as two-thirds last year as an advertising slowdown tipped the company’s sales into decline for the first time since it went public.

Zuckerberg decided things were not moving fast enough. A recruitment spree had more than doubled the size of its staff in the three years to last autumn, when it topped 87,000. He lightened the load, cutting 21,000 jobs, and reports from inside the company have described a bleak atmosphere. There have been “difficult choices”, Mendelsohn says. “I don’t think it’s easy for anybody to have to go through that.”

On the market, though, Meta appears to be fighting its way back. Its stock has rallied 89 per cent this year, after it returned to growth in the first quarter and stoked expectations for the second. Other social networks remain under pressure as clients tighten their belts. Mendelsohn says robust user growth, in part driven by the rapid rise of Reels, its TikTok-like video feature, have helped to drive the group’s recovery.

Less than 18 months after setting out a bold vision for his company, Zuckerberg raised eyebrows in March by sending a 2,100-word message to employees that mentioned the metaverse just twice. He stressed, too, that Meta’s largest investment was in artificial intelligence.

AI is “having a moment”, with myriad companies considering how the technology can affect their business, but Mendelsohn denies Meta’s focus has drifted from the metaverse. “They’re happy bedfellows. They’re in progression together and always have been,” she says. AI has been incorporated into Meta’s social networks — recommending posts, removing dangerous content and helping advertisers to reach the right audience — but will also form “part of the pathway to the metaverse”.

Not everyone is sticking around for the ride. Sandberg, the architect of Facebook’s advertising business, headed back to earth last summer; she stepped down as chief operating officer after more than 14 years but remains on Meta’s board. “A great testament to any leader is who they leave [behind],” Mendelsohn says. “There are so many extraordinary people that are at this company who have been here a long time. And I also think it creates opportunities for new leaders to be able to take on responsibilities, in different ways.”

After taking charge of Meta’s global business group in 2021, she relocated from London to New York and was promoted again in February when the company announced the departure of Marne Levine, its chief business officer. “I never thought I would have the experience of living in a different city, aged 51,” Mendelsohn says.

She feels “well and good” nearly eight years after she was diagnosed with follicular lymphoma, an incurable blood cancer. She is “quite good” at compartmentalising and recalls only two “wobbly” weekends, having gone through chemotherapy and immunotherapy, which was successful in creating no evidence of disease. She set up a foundation to find a cure, which is distributing grants to research projects.

“Not all cancers are the same. Not all treatments are the same. And so the impact that my treatments had on me was not as far-reaching and awful as I had envisaged,” she says. “I’m grateful for every day that I have.”

For now, those days are spent at Meta. Where’s the rocket headed next?

ADAM GRAY FOR THE TIMES





Having started out at London ad agencies, Mendelsohn is now head of global business at Meta, right

Q&A

Who is your mentor?
Many people, at different times. My parents and my grandparents. My husband Jon [Mendelsohn, Labour peer].

Does money motivate you? No.

What was the most important event of your career?
I don’t think of things in absolutes. It’s about moving forward, and what the next thing is. But maybe being president of the IPA (Institute of Practitioners in Advertising); I was the first woman to become president.

Who do you most admire?
I just feel very blessed to have the people in my life that I do.

What is your favourite television programme?
I love TV programmes. I’m a big fan of the West Wing, left. I’ll binge-watch any series; just did Beef.



How do you relax?
Hot bubble bath every night, wherever I am in the world.

CV

Age: 51
Education: BA English and Theatre Studies, University of Leeds
Career: 1992, business development director, Bartle Bogle Hegarty; 2004, deputy chairwoman, Grey London; 2008, executive chairwoman, Karmarama; 2013, vice-president of EMEA, Facebook; 2021, vice-president of global business group, Meta; 2023, head of global business group, Meta
Family: Married to Jon with four children

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Does it still pay to be a landlord in 2023?
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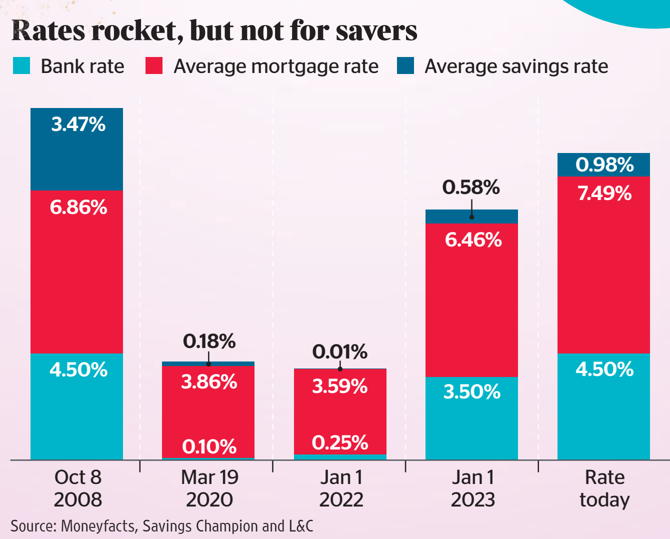
Money

Robbed: the big banks' savings rate stitch-up

We are all missing out on millions of pounds in interest as the high street giants pocket the benefit of rising rates, writes **Ali Hussain**



GETTY IMAGES



Banks have put mortgage rates up to levels not seen since the 2008 global financial crisis — but are not passing those high rates on to savers.

The Bank of England's base rate, which mortgage and savings rates are based on, went up from 4.25 per cent to 4.5 per cent on Thursday. This was the 12th increase since December 2021, when it was at a record low of 0.1 per cent. The base rate last hit 4.5 per cent in October 2008.

However, while the average easy-access saving rate across the big five banks (Barclays, HSBC, Santander, NatWest and Lloyds) and Nationwide was about 3.5 per cent on October 8, 2008, today it is below 1 per cent.

By contrast, the average mortgage standard variable rate (SVR) was 6.86 per cent in October 2008 and is 7.49 per cent today.

A typical borrower with a 25-year £250,000 repayment mortgage and £10,000 in an easy access savings account on those average rates would be about £119 a month — £1,428 a year — worse off today than they were in October 2008 (about £181 a month worse off if you factor in inflation).

MPs have raised concerns with the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA), the City regulator, about the growing gap between savings and loan rates at a time when banks have made record profits. Anthony Browne, a member of the Treasury select committee, said: "I am genuinely shocked by these figures. It is completely unjustified for the banks to increase borrowing costs in this way while keeping saving rates so low. We've had a windfall for the energy companies and this appears to be one for the banks."

Harriett Baldwin, chairwoman of the committee, said: "Instead of squeezing greater profits from their customers, the UK's biggest banks should be treating their customers fairly, particularly at a time when household incomes are under such pressure."

The longer that savings rates drag behind borrowing costs, the greater the profits for the banks. For every 0.01 percentage point that the gap between the two widens, the big five banks boost their gross income by about £232 million, according to Russ Mould from the wealth manager AJ Bell.

The growing margin may also fall foul of new "consumer duty" rules from the FCA, which take effect from July 31 and require financial services companies, such as banks, to "act to deliver good outcomes for retail customers".

Once the Bank of England's latest 0.25 percentage point increase feeds through, SVRs may reach 8 per cent, experts say, while saving rates are unlikely to grow in line with the increases.

There are about 1.4 million mortgage customers on their lender's SVR or a variable rate. A further 1.5 million have a fixed-rate deal due to end this year, according to UK Finance, a trade association for the banking industry.

The Bank of England rapidly cut its rate from 4.5 per cent in October 2008 to 0.5 per cent in March 2009 and 11 years later it hit its low of 0.1 per cent. Most of the banks we analysed reduced their easy-access rates to 0.01 per cent soon after that. Nationwide's was cut to 0.03 per cent.

Today, the average savings rate at the big five banks is 0.98 per cent.

SVR borrowing costs fell from an average of 6.86 per cent in October 2008 to 3.85 per cent soon after the base rate fell to 0.1 per cent. Today the average SVR mortgage rate is 7.49 per cent.

The FCA was approached for comment.

What are the big banks up to?

One of the worst offenders is Barclays, which had an easy-access savings rate of 3.69 per cent in October 2008. The rate fell to 0.01 per cent in July 2020 when the base rate hit 0.1 per cent. Today its easy-access rate is 0.7 per cent.

By contrast, the Barclays' SVR was 7.14 per cent in October 2008 and is now 7.74 per cent.

Barclays said it has a very small number of customers on an SVR mortgage with most being on a fixed or tracker deal. It said it offers competitive saving rates and that it increased rates on a number of deals in April.

Nationwide's easy-access savings rate was 2.15 per cent in October 2008. Today it pays 1.35 per cent on balances over £10,000. Its SVR was 6.49 per cent in 2008 and is 7.74 per cent today.

Nationwide said: "Our average deposit rate has been at least 55 per cent higher than the market average in recent months and we will pay the best rates we can sustainably afford. We are different from banks because we are owned by our members, so we always look for opportunities to reward them."

NatWest said: "We offer a range of savings accounts, with rates at 4.2 per cent and above on our fixed-rate Isas."

Lloyds said: "Variable rate savings rates are influenced by a wide range of things, not just the base rate. The vast majority of borrowers are on fixed-rate mortgages that do not change with the base rate.

How we compared rates

We looked at easy-access savings and SVRs on October 8, 2008, with the help of the data firms Moneyfacts and Savings Champion, and the mortgage broker L&C.

Account names and banks have changed since the financial crisis. Lloyds and TSB, for example, have become separate banks, while Barclays and Santander previously provided mortgages through the Woolwich and Abbey brands.

Where accounts are different today, we compared rates with the 2008 easy-access accounts with the fewest withdrawal restrictions that did not require a linked current account.

What can you do about it?

If you're a saver, switch. Aldermore is among the best banks for passing on rate rises, according to Savings Champion. The rates on its Double Access Account have gone from 0.75 per cent in December 2021 to 3.55 per cent today.

Kent Reliance has increased the rate for its easy-access account to 3.45 per cent. If you prefer the big banks, take advantage of deals for existing customers or accept some restrictions.

Members of Barclays' Blue Rewards scheme pay £5 a month, but can get at least £5 cashback a month and have access to an easy-access Rainy Day Saver account paying 5 per cent on up to £5,000.

For borrowers, SVRs are usually the most expensive mortgage rates. Five-year fixed deals are the cheapest, suggesting that markets expect the base rate to ease back once inflation cools.

Lloyds has a deal fixed until August 31, 2028, at 4.01 per cent for those with a 40 per cent deposit, with no arrangement fee. The cheapest two-year fix is 4.39 per cent from First Direct with a £490 fee.

The £150,000 extra cost of retiring when you don't own a home

Middle-aged renters will need up to £200,000 extra in their pension to cover housing costs in retirement.

The number of people aged 55 to 64 living in privately rented homes has gone from 252,000 in 2012 to 477,000 last year — almost a third of those approaching retirement.

The average tenant retiring today at 66 and living in a one-bedroom flat in England can expect to pay £8,795 a year rent, according to the investment platform Interactive Investor. Renting would cost more than £226,000 over the course of retirement for women and £188,000 for men, who have a shorter life expectancy, assuming rental price increases of 2 per cent a year.

Interactive said that by 2043 a woman retiring at 66 could expect to pay almost £377,000 in rent over her remaining life, based on annual costs of about £13,000 and 2 per cent yearly rent increases. A male tenant retiring at 66 would need to find just under £337,000 to cover housing costs.

While older homeowners generally pay off their mortgage by retirement, retired tenants face rising rents. Most projections for comfortable retirement standards do not take into account housing costs or social care costs.

Interactive Investor estimates that a woman renting in retirement would need an average of £150,000 more in her pension pot to fund a comfortable retirement and meet those average £8,795 a year rents than someone with no housing costs. A man would need an extra £140,000, assuming their pension investments grew 5 per cent a year.

By 2043 the average retired woman would need an extra £230,000 in her pot to cover rental costs and a retired man would need £215,000, it said.

Alice Guy from Interactive Investor said: "The scary reality is that not managing to get on the housing ladder may shape the retirement you can expect."

Middle-aged home ownership has declined over the past decade as property prices have risen. The share of 45 to 54-year-olds who own a home outright or with a mortgage fell from almost 72 per cent in 2012 to about 66 per cent last year. Home ownership among 55 to 64-year-olds declined from 76 per cent to 71 per cent, according to the English Housing Survey.

Phoenix Insights, a think tank, expects more than a quarter of working-age adults to still be renting or paying off a mortgage in retirement. Catherine Foot said: "We overlook housing costs at our peril when assessing the adequacy of state and private pensions. Renters have increased costs that put them at risk of financial hardship."

Rachel Mortimer

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Come on, tech bods, find us a better way to buy homes

Holly Mead
Deputy Money Editor

When people moan that the process of moving house hasn't changed in decades, I tell them this: when our buyer had a survey done, he ordered a "drone inspection" of the roof as an extra.

Now, it doesn't get much more 2023 than that.

Sure, the first time the surveyor turned up he had forgotten the power cable for the drone.

And yes, the second time, the nearest airport sent a signal the moment he got the thing in the air saying that permission to fly in the airspace was denied and he would have to land it immediately.

In the end, the surveyor leant out of an upstairs window and took a picture on his phone of the one bit of roof he could see from there.

Now tell me that things haven't moved on.

What else did I notice had changed this time round?

There were more emails than phone calls from the solicitor. In fact, we bought and sold a house without ever having met our solicitor — at the point of exchange, I did pause to wonder whether the whole thing was an elaborate scam.

A decade ago, when I was a first-time buyer, everyone needed original copies of everything: driving licences, bills and bank statements. All the documents had to be signed with a "wet signature". Today screenshots, downloads and scans are acceptable for most things. That certainly made the admin side of house moving less laborious.

You can now do "virtual viewings" of properties, to save yourself trudging along to fifty different houses. This is undoubtedly helpful for the time-poor or those viewing homes elsewhere in the country, but it's not a real replacement — you can't buy a house without ever having stepped foot in it. Or you shouldn't, anyway.

But let's not kid ourselves that this industry has properly progressed.

Apart from the mad fact that the entire chain can fall apart at a moment's notice, even if you have already spent thousands on surveys and conveyancing, surely the most frustrating part of being a buyer or a seller is not knowing what is going on elsewhere in the chain.

Our chain comprised ten people, six properties, four estate agencies and six different solicitors. At times it felt like a very bad game of Chinese whispers.

"We're waiting for such and such a form from your vendor," the solicitor says.

"No, they're asking for this bit of gobbledegook from your buyer," the estate agent insists.

"Au contraire, we're actually checking on some nonsense from the surveyor," another agent chips in.

"I think they're all just making it up," concludes Mr Mead.

On occasions I felt quite sorry for our sales progressor: one day she called me 11 times with various non-updates. On other occasions I wanted to throttle her.

In the present fraught market, each time the estate agent's number flashes up on your phone you are convinced it's because your buyer has baled or your seller has had a change of heart.

"Stop calling, unless it's to tell me we have exchanged!" I wanted to shout.

I've noticed a trend recently where buyers and sellers swap phone numbers so that they can speak to each other directly through the process. I can't imagine anything worse.

It never seems to go well either. Some friends moved last year and just as they had completed and were on the way to pick up the keys, the seller texted: "Going to be a bit delayed. I've locked myself out and left the baby inside. The fire brigade is on the way."

I am happy to report that the baby was fine — the patio doors, however, were not. And asking the previous owner to pay for the damage is a bit awkward when you've previously been sending each other emojis and promising to go on dog walks together. (They did ask, she refused. There have been no dog walks.)

I'm told that some agents use software to help buyers and sellers know what's going on elsewhere in the chain. I don't know anyone who has actually used it, but the internet assures me it's out there.

These online portals let solicitors and estate agents tick a box each time a task is completed: seller's questionnaire, tick. Survey, tick. Searches, mortgage offer, tick, tick. Drone survey … cross.

Any weak links and heel draggers in the chain quickly become obvious and it stops everyone having to make 50 phone calls to find out what's going on (something I'm sure all agents and solicitors would welcome).

What else do we need? An app that tells you what the neighbours are really like would be a game-changer. And how about a version of a credit score that verifies your identity and affordability to get the ball rolling more quickly at the offer stage. A robot to pack the boxes would be a dream, while we're at it.

Technology has revolutionised our finances. It has changed the way we shop, buy insurance, book holidays and order a kebab. Even the NHS has an app that actually functions well enough that I can order a repeat prescription without being on hold to the doctor's surgery for an hour.

But for many people, buying a house is the biggest and most important transaction you will ever make — and quite often it feels as though you're having to do it with your eyes closed and one hand tied behind your back.

It is truly one of the most stressful experiences in life.

It's time to get some tech bods involved and make the process fit for the 21st century.

@holly_mead_



> **An app that tells you what the neighbours are really like would be a game-changer**

The big question
Should you leave your children an inheritance?

Yes



Jenny Ray, a partner at the law firm DMH Stallard

The passing on of wealth to your children through inheritance is a strong tradition, enshrined in law throughout the world.

But if you're a fan of *Succession*, you'll know why some may decide that there are people who are more deserving than their offspring.

I believe in testamentary freedom — leaving your money to whoever you choose — but there are practical reasons why your children should be top of the list.

For those who want to reduce their inheritance tax liability, there are savings to be had if you leave your property to your direct descendants. It can also help younger generations who are facing the spiralling cost of housing and inadequate pension provision.

If you do not leave anything to your children, your estate could face a legal claim. The Inheritance (Provision for Family and Dependants) Act 1975 permits people connected with the deceased to make claims for reasonable financial provision from a parent's estate.

Your children may investigate the validity of the will or challenge whether you had the capacity to prepare it. Even in unsuccessful cases, your estate may have to meet significant legal costs.

There is also a strong argument for leaving your wealth to your children after you die rather than while you are living. If you survive for seven years after making a lifetime gift, tax may be saved, but you would have relinquished control of your wealth.

As we live longer, with more years of better health, our ability to live how we want to and pay our way through the care we need should be an increasing priority.

When you no longer need it, passing your wealth to your children is a sensible plan.

No



Alfie Stirling from the New Economics Foundation, a think tank

Sorry about the collapsed healthcare system, try not to get cancer. Apologies, too, for the social care lottery, best to avoid dementia. Oh, and sorry about the polluted air and oceans, better to not live in a city or too near the sea. We all care about the inheritance we leave, but what form should this take?

Wealth inequality in the UK is high, rising and harmful. The richest 10 per cent of families own more than half of all personal net wealth, up from about 45 per cent at the start of the 1990s. This affects access to work and education and weakens the economy as savings eclipse spending.

On paper, wealth inequality is lower in the UK than in many other countries. The richest 10 per cent of families in the Netherlands, Denmark and Germany all own a larger share of private net wealth than in the UK. But in the UK a larger portion of the public realm has been sold into private ownership, while across northwest Europe a greater share of wealth is retained in the public sector and inherited collectively.

Collective inheritance spreads access to wealth more effectively: access to high-quality housing is determined less by your ability to get a mortgage; a decent income in old age depends less on the size of a private pension and high-quality care isn't contingent on how much you own in your own home. If state education is good the proportion of families paying privately is ten times lower; with a collective aim, cities are more likely to be developed with air quality in mind and nature will be better preserved.

The UK's public policy forgoes this rich inheritance for all, in favour of a few extra quid for those with a family estate. Our children will find it hard to forgive us.

IN THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW



How to hit the retirement jackpot

PLUS

Linda Lusardi on swapping the tax office for Page 3

Watch out for fees — why it doesn't always pay to merge your pensions

Auto-enrolment means more pots to keep track of. Some could be better off left where they are, says **Lily Russell-Jones**

Consolidating your pension pot could reduce your charges and make your savings easier to manage — but in some cases it could be a costly mistake. Choosing the wrong company could leave you thousands of pounds worse off.

"It can make a lot of sense to consolidate your pension savings for clarity if nothing else," said Ian Millward from the advisory firm Candid Financial Advice. "However, controlling costs is absolutely key. If someone is trying to charge you 2 per cent to manage your pension and justifies that by telling you that your money will outperform the market, that should be a red flag."

The introduction of auto-enrolment in 2012 means that workers over the age of 22 who earn more than £10,000 a year from a single job are now automatically part of their workplace pension scheme. But it also means that many are likely to build up multiple pension pots over their career.

By 2035 there will be 27 million pension pots that are no longer being saved into, up from an estimated 12 million today, according to the Pensions Policy Institute, an independent research group. Last year the value of lost pension pots reached £26.6 billion, researchers said, with the average lost pot worth about £9,470.

Keeping your money in one place can make it easier to manage, but the fees you are charged can make thousands of pounds worth of difference to your pot over time.

If you had £150,000 saved in a pension pot and paid 0.6 per cent a year in fees, you could expect to have £352,862 after 20 years, according to the investment platform AJ Bell. It assumed investment returns of 5 per cent a year.

However, if your charges were 1 per cent, you would have £325,522 after 20 years. And if your fees were 2 per cent, you would have just £265,704.

Joe Hamilton, *right,* from Bishopton in Renfrewshire paid an annual fee of about 1.8 per cent after he consolidated some of his pension savings. Between 2015 and 2017, he transferred about £450,000 into a pension managed by Munro Financial Planning, which was taken over by 1825, Standard Life Aberdeen's financial advice arm (now Abrdn). He withdrew about £40,000 as a tax-free lump sum.

"I wanted to retire at 60 so as I got nearer that age I started sitting down and discussing my finances in more detail with Standard Life. That's when I realised how much it was charging me and started expressing concern," said Hamilton, 63.

He said he paid about £8,000 in fees a year for his pension: a £2,000 platform fee, £2,000 for management and £4,000 for consultancy.



I realised I was better off managing the money myself

"I was getting very little extra performance, but paying well above the fees from other firms for the privilege. It became clear that the only way to reduce fees was to manage the money myself with no support," Hamilton said.

In 2021 he moved £426,000 to a lower cost self-invested personal pension (Sipp) charging 0.5 per cent.

Standard Life said: "We understand that Mr Hamilton's relationship was with Abrdn as an advised customer. Abrdn was approached for comment.

What are your options?

Since 2015 default workplace pension schemes have had their fees capped at 0.75 per cent. Since last year they are not allowed to charge flat fees (where you pay a set amount regardless of how much money is in your pension) if your pot is worth less than £100.

However, many investors choose to move their savings into Sipps, which offer more choice over how your money is invested, but the fees can vary widely.

"If you do want more choice look for low-cost Sipp options. Somehow 2 per cent fees have become the norm for fully advised clients, but that is too high," Millward said.

Millward suggests as low-cost options investment platforms such as Vanguard, Interactive Investor, and the pension consolidation service PensionBee, which charges 0.5 to 0.95 per cent.

The cheapest Sipp option depends on the size of your investment, according to the financial advice website Boring Money. It compared fees across Sipp providers and found that the cheapest option for someone with £50,000 would be Vanguard. They would pay about £210 a year in fees (0.42 per cent) if they invested in its LifeStrategy 60 fund. Vanguard charges a 0.15 per cent annual platform fee (capped at £375) and about 0.22 per cent to invest in a ready-made portfolio of investments from its Lifestrategy range. Transaction fees cost about 0.05 per cent.

The cheapest option for someone with £100,000 was Interactive Investor — with fees of about £412 (0.41 per cent) if they invested in its low-cost growth fund. It charges a flat fee of £12.99 a month with an additional trading fee of £5.99 to buy or sell shares and funds

If you are considering consolidating your pension you should check the terms and conditions of your existing schemes first. "Some pension schemes, especially older ones, might offer benefits such as guaranteed annuity rates, higher entitlements to tax-free cash or early retirement options. Transferring your money could result in the loss of these benefits," said Jon Greer from the wealth manager Quilter.



'I was losing 80% of what I paid in'

Johanna Jewell moved her £25,000 pension to Aviva in 2012, but later realised that her £50 a month contributions were being almost entirely eaten up by fees (Lily Russell Jones writes). In April 2022, for instance, Jewell, 46, pictured with her daughter Ella, 12, paid a £30.05 charge to an adviser and a £8.01 management charge. Over a year she paid about £457 — 1 per cent of her pot. "I was shocked when I realised how much I was paying. Only about £12 of my contribution actually ended up in my pension. No wonder it hardly rose."

Aviva said that the bulk of Jewell's fee came from her adviser and that her pot had grown to £43,500 over ten years, including her contributions. "Savers should consider the full spectrum of charges and benefits when looking at pension options."

Last June Jewell moved her savings again to a Sipp with PensionBee, which charges 0.5 per cent — about £230 a year. Her pot is now worth £46,300.

Stolen card fraud doubles as scammers shift tactics

Losses from stolen card details have almost doubled in a year. Known as card ID theft, this is when fraudsters use lost or stolen data to apply for payment cards in someone else's name or take control of an existing card.

Losses totalled £51.7 million last year, up from £26.3 million in 2021, with 82,064 cases, up from 40,026. according to UK Finance, a trade association.

It shows how criminals are shifting tactics as banks tighten security on other types of fraud. Losses from "authorised push payment" scams, where victims are tricked into transferring money to a fraudster, have dropped 17 per cent to £485.2 million.

The use of stolen data is surging after a series of data breaches and social engineering techniques, where criminals persuade victims to give away their details. This information is then used to apply for credit cards, loans, phone contracts and insurance products. To protect yourself, check your credit report, which will show if someone applies for credit in your name.

Lost and stolen card fraud is also rising, where a criminals get hold of a physical card and PIN. Losses increased 30 per cent to £100.2 million.

Total fraud losses were £1.2 billion in 2022, down 8 per cent on 2021. Confirmation of payee, introduced in 2020, where banks check that the name and account numbers match on transfers, is thought to be behind some of the drop.
Ali Hussain

£1.2bn
lost to fraud in 2022

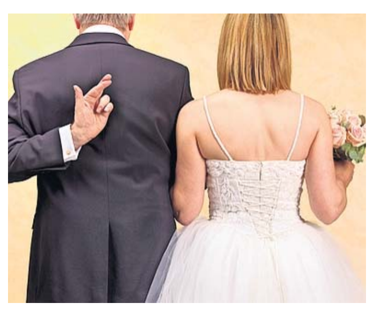
More divorces than weddings for first time

The number of weddings fell to its lowest in 182 years in 2020 as the Covid pandemic shut venues.

There were 85,770 weddings in England and Wales, a record 61 per cent fall from the year before and the lowest number since 1838, according to the Office for National Statistics (ONS). There were 103,592 divorces.

The average age of marriage for opposite-sex couples rose by about a year for both sexes, to 35.3 for men and 33.2 for women. Marriage rates, which the ONS sees as a better indication of changing trends, fell to their lowest since 1862, with 7.4 per 1,000 unmarried men tying the knot and 7 per 1,000 unmarried women.

For the first time on record, marriage rates were lower than divorce rates. There were 8.5 divorces per 1,000 married men and 8.6 per 1,000 married women. In the first lockdown of 2020, between March 24 and July 3, only 264 couples were married. Sarah Coles from the wealth manager Hargreaves Lansdown said that while the falling number of weddings was a "one-off", it did reflect long-term trends. Between 1991 and 2019 the marriage rate for men fell from 39.3 per 1,000 to 19.1 and for women from 33.2 per 1,000 to 17.8.



More couples are now living together without the legal protection of marriage. If you and your partner are not planning to get married, make a will to ensure your assets are distributed as you would like if you die. If you die without a will, the rules of intestacy dictate how your assets are divided.

A cohabitation agreement can help to lay out how money is managed between you, who owns what, and what happens if you split up.

If you want to pass on your pension to your partner, you can complete a nomination of beneficiaries form.

Married couples and civil partners can pass assets to each other free of inheritance tax. You can also get an additional Isa allowance when a spouse dies, meaning that all assets left to you in an Isa can be wrapped into your own Isa without affecting your allowances. You don't get this if you are not married.

Married couples can also share assets to take advantage of each others' personal savings, dividend and capital gains tax allowances. If you are unmarried, sharing assets may trigger a tax bill.
David Brenchley

More tax, rising rates: who would

One in three owners plan to sell buy-to-let property this year — but there are still ways to make money says **Elizabeth Anderson**



Soaring mortgage bills, higher taxes and increased regulation are forcing many landlords to sell up or switch to more profitable short-term or holiday lets. So does it still make sense to own a buy-to-let?

There are about 2.75 million landlords in the UK, down 3.5 per cent in the past year, according to the accountancy firm UHY Hacker Young. About 35 per cent are planning to sell a property this year, suggests the latest confidence index from the National Residential Landlords Association.

But what of those who are staying put? Why are they persevering in the toughest market for landlords for years?

Some say they are staying because of the bureaucracy and huge tax bills they would face if they sold. But the reality is that buy-to-let can still be a very profitable venture if you get the right property and manage the investment well.

"I own two buy-to-let properties and make enough money from them to give up my job now," said Paul Salt, a self-employed gas engineer from Hampshire. "Property is still very lucrative compared with any other investment. If you invest in high-yielding properties and you self-manage, the cash flow and capital appreciation is brilliant."

Salt bought his first property in 2018 — a four-bedroom £215,000 house. He remortgaged his own home in Portsmouth to get the deposit and do £35,000 of renovations to convert it into a five-bedroom house in multiple occupation (HMO).

He now rents out each room for £500 a month, including all bills, giving him a profit of £15,000-£20,000 a year after fees, taxes and bills.

This helped him to buy another place in 2020: a four-bedroom former council house in Portsmouth for £245,000. He rents this out for £1,100 a month and pays £350 a month on the mortgage. Salt said the rent is below the market rate, and he does this to get a better selection of tenants.

"There are not many other things you can invest in that will give you as much cash income day to day. The main reason I started in property was as an alternative to a pension, which you can't access until you are 55. With my properties, I'm essentially drawing an income now. I run my gas business and the properties in partnership with my wife, who works eight hours a week in a supermarket. It means I can share the income with her for both businesses, so we can remain basic-rate taxpayers and still claim child benefit."

Landlords pay a 3 per cent stamp duty surcharge when buying and can no longer claim as much tax relief on their mortgage interest. They used to be able to deduct borrowing costs and some property management costs from their rental income before paying tax on it, but that has been phased out. Since 2020 they have had to declare their gross rental income and then they get 20 per cent tax relief, which has led to most landlords paying more tax, and pushed some into the higher or additional rate tax brackets.

Landlords buying properties may choose to hold their properties through a limited company because then they can still deduct mortgage interest from their income for tax purposes. But transferring existing properties to a limited company is often not worth the expense and hassle.

New energy efficiency legislation is also expected to make it more expensive to be a landlord. Properties in England and Wales will need a C rating on their energy performance certificate (EPC), up from the present requirement of E from 2025. Landlords may need to spend thousands of pounds to bring homes up to scratch, although there are rumours that the deadline could be pushed back to 2028.

The government also plans to abolish "no fault" evictions, although no date has been set as yet, and this may make it harder for landlords to evict tenants if they decide they want to sell.

There is also talk of rent regulation being introduced in parts of England. Rent controls were brought in across Scotland this year, limiting rent rises to 3 per cent, enforced by Rent Service Scotland. If a landlord can prove that their costs have gone up significantly they can apply to a rent officer for permission to put rent up by no more than

'We moved out of our house and rented it. I've never felt so well-off'

Mark Underwood from Chelmsford, Essex, runs his own garage business and does not have much in pension savings (Elizabeth Anderson writes). Despite the changes that landlords have faced, he says that the rent he gets comfortably funds his living costs.

Underwood, 66, and his wife Kirsten, 68, moved out of the family home nine years ago and they now live in a two-bedroom park home while they rent their three-bedroom family home to long-term tenants for £1,500 a month.

There is still about £130,000 left on the interest-only mortgage and the payments are £189 a month, although this is likely to rise to at least £400 when their fixed deal expires in a year. At the moment, though, Mark says he has never felt so well-off.

Kirsten, a retired nurse, has an occupational pension and they both get the full state pension.

"I'd been led to believe I'd get £9,000 as a pension.



But a decade ago I was told it was likely to be closer to £3,000, because the investments hadn't performed well. I'd saved all my life into schemes that ended up being worth very little. My way of dealing with that was to run my own pension scheme, which basically means living in a smaller, cheaper property and renting the house out to give us an income.

"I can't see anything changing for at least the next ten years. People are desperate for family houses, but a lot of landlords are leaving the sector because of government policy. It means there are fewer houses to rent. But for me, renting out ours has been the best financial decision we've ever made and we're in it for the long haul."

Buy em, hold em. Investors sit tight in tough market conditions

Some 86 per cent of people using the US firm Vanguard's low-cost investment platform made no fund trades in 2022, despite plunging share prices.

Vanguard said that almost nine out of ten of its UK Personal Investor customers did not buy or sell any funds last year, in "an indication that investors are embracing a long-term, strategic approach to investing".

Stock markets fell sharply in 2022 as a rise in interest rates reduced the appetite for risky stocks that promise profits far into the future. From its peak on January 4 to its bottom on October 13, America's benchmark S&P 500 index fell 27.5 per cent.

Georgina Yarwood from Vanguard said: "Money can evoke emotions and associations that make it hard to control your investment behaviour. A fear of loss or a desire for gain can disrupt



the plans of even the most sophisticated investors. So we are pleased to see Vanguard clients embracing an extremely disciplined approach to investing."

Of those who did trade last year, 62 per cent traded once while 96 per cent made no more than five trades. Those who traded tended to move a small percentage of their money from funds within the same asset class, for instance moving from one stock fund to another, or into cash. Vanguard defines a trade as a movement of money within a personal investor's account. It excludes regular investment contributions, where people set up a monthly direct debit to invest a certain amount into particular funds.

"Investors have the best chance of achieving their financial goals by tuning out of the noise, focusing on what they can control, and sticking to long-term investment plans," Yarwood said.

Arguably, the weakness of the pound may also have prevented a panic. When you invest in a fund that tracks the S&P 500 your cash is held in dollars and converted back to sterling before it is valued, or before you sell. If the value of the dollar increases against the pound, you make more, or lose less. If the dollar decreases you make less or lose more.

Between the start of January and the end of September 2022, the pound fell 24 per cent against the US dollar. As a result, while investors based in America saw 18.4 per cent wiped off their S&P 500 index investment through 2022, British investors lost about 8 per cent.

Other platforms have suggested that investors have been less pragmatic. At the start of May, Charles Schwab said that 55 per cent were planning to reduce their investments because of the cost of living.

Almost three-quarters (74 per cent) of young Gen Z investors (those born from the late 1990s to around 2010) said that they had made extensive changes to their strategies to avoid big losses in the past three months.

After the mini-banking crisis kicked off in March with the failure of Silicon Valley Bank, the investing app Freetrade said there had been a rise in the number of its investors who were shorting the S&P 500. Shorting involves betting that share prices will fall.

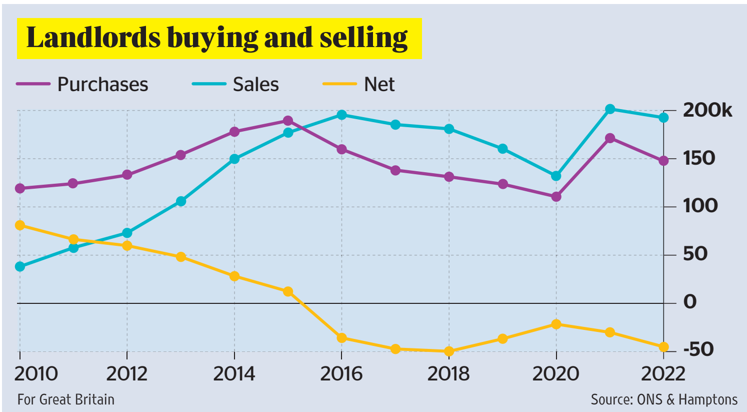
Freetrade said that there had been a 403 per cent increase in the number of buys of the WisdomTree S&P 500 3x Daily Short exchange traded fund. An investment in this ETF goes up by three times the amount that the S&P 500 falls in a day, and vice versa. A 1 per cent fall in the S&P 500 would mean the ETF increased in value by 3 per cent. A 1 per cent rise in the S&P 500 would see the ETF fall in value by 3 per cent.

Vanguard said that staying put was often the best strategy. A £100,000 investment made in the FTSE all-world index in 1994 would have been worth just over £1 million at the end of July 2022. If you had tried to time stock market movements and missed the ten best days for stock returns, you would have just over £600,000.

David Brenchley

want to be a landlord in 2023?





I rent out two houses and make enough to give up my job

6 per cent a year to cover up to 50 per cent of their increased costs.

Some landlords would like to leave the market but are staying because they feel they have no choice. Some cannot face the capital gains tax (CGT) bill they will have to pay if they sell — this is charged at 18 per cent for basic-rate taxpayers or 28 per cent for higher or additional-rate taxpayers.

There is an annual capital gains allowance — gain that you do not have to pay tax on — but this halved from £12,300 to £6,000 in April, and will be £3,000 from April 2024. The Labour Party has suggested that it will raise CGT rates if it wins next year's election.

Some landlords say the CGT bill should be significantly reduced or waived if you sell your property to a tenant, which would help to meet the government objective of increased housing stock for potential buyers.

"Capital gains tax means it is too punitive to sell. CGT goes away when you die, so your beneficiaries can keep all the profit although there may be inheritance tax to consider. People say don't let the tax tail wag the dog, but if you have an impossible tax situation to sell then it's better to hold," said one landlord.

Other landlords face high early redemption charges on their mortgages if they were to sell and others are relying on their property for retirement income. Selling can also be a hassle, taking months or even years if unhappy tenants refuse to leave.

"A lot of us stay in the sector because we basically don't have a choice. We've not been given the chance by the government or banks to exit without hefty penalties," said Jane Reed, 50, who owns 15 flats and houses in the northeast and London. "I'm not going to be bullied by the government into introducing certain rules, such as the upcoming EPC changes, but I am a proactive landlord and am happy to make changes that will benefit my tenants."

She is not sure how much longer she will stay in the market. Some of her properties are losing money because she is paying higher interest rates and 40 per cent tax on some of her rental income. "I have properties where I pay a lot more for the mortgage than I get in rent, but I still have to pay tax on the whole rent I receive. The sector has changed a lot and I'm not sure I'd recommend it to anyone coming in now."

But Salt sees a profitable future in buy-to-let. "Older landlords that were used to massive returns and little regulation are the ones that are exiting the market. Us younger landlords that have invested knowing the impact of the new tax laws, and see the reason for a lot of the increased regulation, still see the investment as very lucrative."

Be patient, it could now take 40 days to switch a pension

It is now taking an average of two weeks to switch pension firms.

The time taken for companies to transfer funds is up 31 per cent in two years — from an average of 10.7 days in 2020 to two weeks in 2022, according to the online firm PensionBee.

It looked at data from the software company Origo, which produces a Pension Transfer Index comparing the performances of 28 companies. It found that most firms take longer to process a transfer than two years ago.

The worst offenders included The People's Pension, which took an average of 39.5 days last year, LV, which took 36 days and NEST at 21.8 days.

PensionBee's own data suggests that pension firms that are not part of Origo's index are also slow at transferring funds. It took an average of 57 days for XPS Administration to transfer funds to PensionBee last year, 33 for Mercer, 32 days for Capita and 26 days for Willis Towers Watson. PensionBee claims to make a switch within 10 days.

Andrew Hagger from the personal finance site Moneycomms said: "When so many processes are automated it is unacceptable that some established firms are taking in excess of 30 days — customers shouldn't have to put up with such shoddy service standards."

The regulator says that pensions have to be transferred within six months of a request. If the pension holder suffers a financial loss as a result of a delay, they may be entitled to compensation. Complain first to your pension firm and if this is not resolved, take it to pensions-ombudsman.org.uk.
Lucy Alderson



Investments can bloom with careful pruning

Keep a keen eye on the markets and your portfolio will grow just the way you want it to, says **David Brenchley**

Just as the perfect garden requires planning, planting and pruning, the ideal investment portfolio needs regular upkeep — once you have decided which funds or stocks to invest in.

All successful investors will rebalance their portfolios from time to time, ensuring that it is still in line with their long-term goals, whether that's saving for retirement, a house deposit or to pass down wealth.

"Regardless of the size of their portfolio, or its make-up, investors would do well to maintain a keen interest in what they hold and how the prevailing environment may affect it," said Evangelos Assimakos from the wealth manager Rathbones.

Financial markets can fluctuate wildly. A year or two of surging — or plunging — share prices could throw your original allocations out of kilter and require action.

A portfolio set up five years ago that was half invested in America's S&P 500 index and half in the UK's FTSE all-share index would today have about 60 per cent in the S&P 500 and 40 per cent in the FTSE all-share. This is because US shares have done much better than UK stocks.

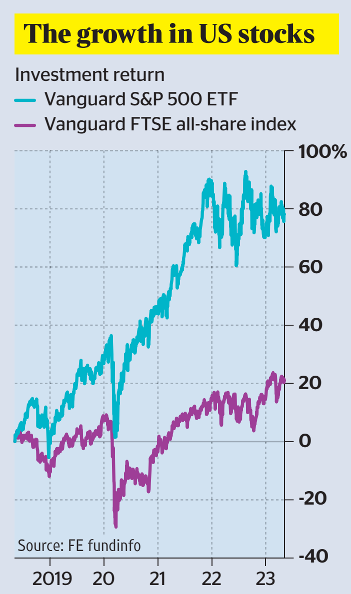
"Share prices aren't static, neither is the shape of your portfolio," said Laith Khalaf from the investment platform AJ Bell.

"Over short periods this won't make much difference but, given time, the equilibrium in your portfolio can be lost as some bits move up faster than others."

Whether you decide to make changes when you review your portfolio or not, it's important to make considered decisions, rather than simply letting the balance in your portfolio be dictated by market movements, Khalaf said.

It's not always simple. For starters, few of us have portfolios that consist of only two or three funds. More likely, you will have a collection of ten to 15, or even more.

Here's what you need to consider.



How often should I review my portfolio?

Some will review and rebalance their portfolios on a set date. That could be quarterly, twice a year, every year, or even every two years. But most of us will probably do this on an annual basis — perhaps at the turn of each tax year.

Instead of aiming to rebalance your portfolio on a specific date, however, the timing of your review should "mostly be determined by the extent to which your underlying investments have drifted from their intended allocation", said Eren Osman from the private bank Arbuthnot Latham.

£11.95
Fee for buying and selling trusts, ETFs or shares through Hargreaves Lansdown

If stock and bond markets are flat over a year, there's little point in reviewing your portfolio when it doesn't need changing. The more you log into your investment account, the more likely you are to make unnecessary changes.

"In normal market conditions investors should be able to avoid the need to rebalance too frequently," Osman said.

£3,000
Capital gains tax allowance from April 2024, down from £6,000 today

Why should I make changes?

One key reason is to bring your portfolio back to its original allocation. If you wanted a balanced portfolio, which was 60 per cent invested in global equities and 40 per cent in UK government bonds, any major shift in those two weightings will mean that your portfolio is either more or less risky than you had intended.

Osman said: "Through sharp falls in stock markets, or following sustained periods of strong performance, investors may be able to add long-term value by topping up the laggards and trimming their winners."

Big life events could mean a portfolio review is needed, too. Getting married, having a child or buying a bigger house, for instance, are big commitments so you may want less volatile returns. If you are approaching retirement you may want to focus on income rather than growth.

Consider what, if anything, has changed in your personal life, and how this might affect your attitude to risk, said Khalaf.

What about fees?

Fees should also be a prime consideration in any investment decision and rebalancing your portfolio is no different. Some platforms do not charge you for buying and selling funds, but others do; some platforms charge more for buying and selling shares, investment trusts and exchange traded funds (ETFs).

If you have collected a portfolio in which there are lots of different funds or stocks, transaction charges will add up. Unnecessary charges only reduce the return that you receive from your investments.

"Despite modest dealing charges per trade on most platforms, for a well-diversified portfolio they can quickly mount up if you are making multiple sales and purchases," Osman said.

On the UK's largest platform, Hargreaves Lansdown, buying and selling funds is free, but you will be charged between £5.95 and £11.95 per transaction for buying and selling shares, trusts and ETFs, so bear that in mind when making changes to your portfolio.

How about tax?

This is something else to consider when rebalancing. If your investments are held outside a tax-efficient wrapper, such as an Isa or self-invested personal pension (Sipp), you could be liable for tax.

If the investments that you are trimming back have made you a profit, you could be liable for capital gains tax of 10 per cent for basic-rate taxpayers and 20 per cent for higher and additional-rate taxpayers.

The first £6,000 of capital gains you crystallise (ie if you sell an investment) is completely tax-free, although this allowance will halve from next April to £3,000.

"Investors should be aware of crystallising capital gains beyond their annual allowance," Osman said. However, he added that investors should attempt to fully utilise their capital gains tax annual allowance if they can because the allowance cannot be carried forward into the next tax year.

Ultimately, while rebalancing your portfolio is important, and can keep you engaged with your investments, "there's no need to make changes simply for the sake of it," said Khalaf.

A little pruning can be beneficial but you don't want to pull it all up from the roots.

Online
Follow David Brenchley's investments as he makes his changes
thetimes.co.uk/getrichslowly

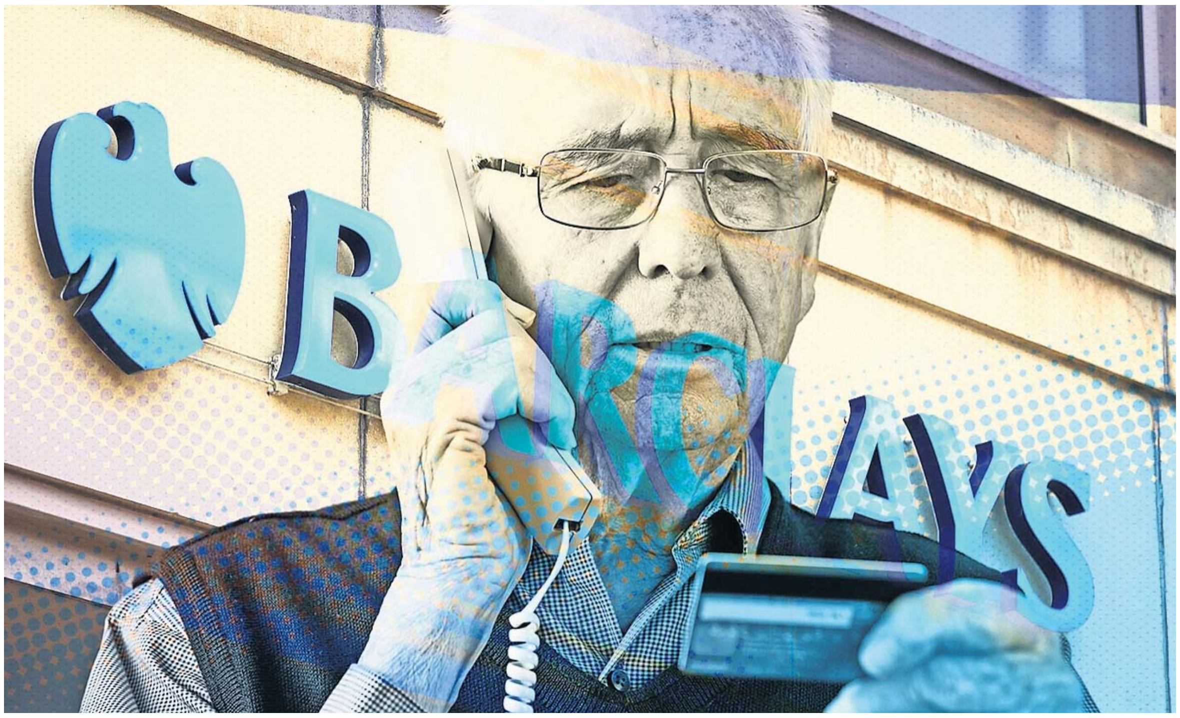


Barclays won't give Dad his £12,000

Times Money Mentor
Troubleshooter

Katherine Denham





Can you help my 84-year-old disabled father to get £12,000 of his own money from Barclays Bank?

My dad, Douglas, lives in France. He opened an account with Barclays when he lived in England and has held it for more than 40 years. Last year he had a letter telling him that Barclays was closing his account due to Brexit and advising him of what to do before the deadline on January 23.

In December he wrote to the branch providing the details requested. He didn't hear back so he called customer services in early January and found out that his branch in Rawtenstall, Lancashire, had closed.

He was told to send the details again to an address in Leicester.

In February he had a letter asking him to provide proof of identity either in branch — a 1,200-mile round trip — or post the documents, which he did.

That was late February and he has heard nothing since. He asked for my help as I am registered as his power of attorney. I phoned Barclays but the call handler said I needed to go through the bank's verification process, which is only possible in a branch.

In March I drove to my nearest branch in Bristol. But there was only one person there who could process my documentation and they were about to go to lunch. I did not have time to wait as I had meetings to get back to.

It seems absurd to need to do this just to get Barclays to communicate with my father. Perhaps you can find out what has happened to my father's £12,000 and have it sent to his French bank account?

Sue Turner, Somerset

THE TIMES
Money Mentor
Online
Our guide to the best bank accounts
thetimes.co.uk/money-mentor

Troubleshooter says

It does seem absurd to go to the trouble of verifying a power of attorney just to help your father get his own money. You said it was like using a sledgehammer to crack a nut.

You had the legal document you needed to manage your dad's finances but Barclays then needed you to register it with the bank before you could act on his behalf. With so many bank branches closing, it does seem ludicrous that Barclays would insist that you visit in person.

It said it is possible to call and request a form, although you would have to use the Barclays app to verify your identity. It's not clear why this option wasn't offered to you.

Yet why was your dad having such difficulty accessing his money in the first place?

One of the effects of Brexit is that British banks can no longer offer accounts to customers whose permanent address is outside the UK. This means they have had to close the accounts of UK expats. Before transferring his £12,000 to his French bank account, Barclays needed several documents to verify his identity.

Your dad told me that he had sent the documents twice or even three times. Barclays said it didn't have everything it needed. It said its letters made it clear what was required, which your dad disputed.

Barclays said: "Our UK products are designed for customers in the UK.

"We continue to review the services we offer to retail customers within the European Economic Area. Where we make the decision to withdraw a product or service, we contact customers to give them advance notice of the decision and outline the next steps they need to take.

"Now that we have received all the required documentation for our robust identification and verification process, we can confirm that the transfer has been processed successfully."

Your dad now has his money and said he was pleased that this "prolonged obstacle course" was over.

If you would like us to investigate a consumer problem, write to Troubleshooter, Times Money, 1 London Bridge Street, London SE1 9GF or troubleshooter@thetimes.co.uk. Please include a phone number

My phone is off but I'm still paying

I fell for a scam in the new year and ever since have been bombarded with calls, so I took out a new phone contract and got a new number with another firm. But O2 won't close my old account, even though I'm out of contract, so I've been paying for two phone bills for months.

In January I had a call from a fraudster pretending to be from O2, phishing for financial information from me under the pretence of offering me a new deal. I had just discussed upgrading my handset the previous week with someone who was actually from O2 — so I believed the scammer, and thought they were following up on my previous call.

I agreed to a new deal, gave personal information, including my address and bank details, believing I was signing up to a new contract. I also gave away my "one-time activation code", which meant the fraudster could access my O2 account.

The next day I began to get bombarded with suspicious texts. It suddenly clicked that the phone call was a scam, so I immediately cancelled my bank cards and rang O2.

O2 said that luckily there had been no suspicious activity on my account, but it would open a fraud case to investigate.

I continued to get calls, texts and WhatsApps from scammers. Blocking numbers didn't help — the fraudsters would simply use another to contact me.

The constant harassment was making me stressed, so I decided to switch off my phone and get a new one with a new number through Tesco mobile.

As I was out of contract, I thought it would be easy to leave O2. But I was told that I couldn't while a fraud case was ongoing, and that it would take a week for the investigation to take place.

It has now been more than ten weeks. Each week I call for an update, only to be told that the investigation still hasn't finished.

In the meantime I'm paying £11.22 a month for a phone that remains switched off in a cupboard. I'm worried that cancelling the direct debit will damage my credit score, but my attempts to solve the problem are getting nowhere.

Can you help me to close my account once and for all, and to get a refund? I have paid O2 about £44 since I asked to leave in January.

Mark Tuck, Shoreham-by-Sea

Troubleshooter says

Falling for a scam is a scary and stressful experience. Calls can be very convincing, but it's important to spot the red flags.

If you are asked for passwords, security information or bank details, you should hang up and ring the company back to check the call is legitimate.

It's unacceptable that O2 has made you wait ten weeks to investigate your fraud case.

It apologised for the delay and said: "We'll never call a customer unexpectedly to ask for their one-time activation code. If in doubt customers should hang up and call us back to ensure we can take action to keep their account safe from fraud."

You now have a full refund and an extra £16 in compensation — £60 in total.

Lucy Alderson

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Money Unit trust

Unit trust and open-ended investment company prices

ALLIANZ GLOBAL INVESTORS
Inv Serv: 020 7065 1400 Helpline: 0800 317 573

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Gilt Yield A ‡@	206.01	...	-0.62	1.05
Strategic Bond Fund ‡@	154.38	...	-1.20	4.57
UK Corp Bond C ‡@	104.79	...	-0.77	3.87
UK Eqty C ‡@	6317.26	...	+49.77	3.28
UK Eqty Inc A ‡@	324.22	...	-1.54	4.51
UK Gwth A ‡@	8105.68	...	-45.00	...
UK Index A Inc ‡@	1423.81	...	-10.08	3.01
UK Mid Cap A ‡@	4654.61	...	-172.31	...

ARTEMIS FUND MGRS LTD
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Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Capital R Acc ‡@	2187.55	...	+35.06	3.35
Euro Opps R Acc ‡@	91.26	...	+1.71	1.29
Euro Opps R Inc ‡@	85.36	...	+1.59	1.30
European Growth R Acc ‡@	407.00	...	+11.69	1.87
Global Energy R Acc ‡@	39.04	...	-2.12	1.21
Global Growth R Acc ‡@	336.57	...	+2.51	...
Global Income R Acc ‡@	151.23	...	+1.11	4.33
Global Income R Inc ‡@	95.08	...	+0.70	4.54
Global Select R Acc ‡@	148.67	...	+1.56	...
High Income R Inc ‡@	62.35	...	-0.81	...
Income R Acc ‡@	517.81	...	+3.46	3.77
Income R Inc ‡@	222.30	...	+1.49	3.89
Monthly Dist R Inc ‡@	63.44	...	+0.31	4.84
Strategic Assets R Acc ‡@	91.82	...	+0.68	...
Strategic Bond R M Acc ‡@	96.14	...	+0.05	3.69
Strategic Bond R M Inc ‡@	50.01	...	+0.03	3.78
Strategic Bond R Q Acc ‡@	95.96	...	+0.05	3.69
Strategic Bond R Q Inc ‡@	49.96	...	+0.03	3.76
UK Growth R Acc ‡@	733.85	...	+13.20	2.14
UK Smaller Cos R Acc ‡@	1858.68	...	+5.92	...
UK Special Sits R Acc ‡@	710.45	...	+6.41	1.11

AXA FRAMLINGTON UNIT MGMT LTD
Dling: 0845 602 1952 Priv Clients: 0845 777 5511

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Inc ‡@	572.40	...	-2.10	4.43
Gilt Acc @	201.30	211.80	-1.50	1.08
Gilt Inc @	74.35	78.24	-1.00	1.09
Health Acc ‡@	3025.00	...	+51.00	...
Jap Smlr Co Ac @	62.56	66.09	-0.93	0.30
Managed Inc ‡@	138.30	...	-0.70	4.20
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	209.30	...	-1.40	5.97
UK Growth Inc ‡@	219.80	...	+1.40	0.64
UK Select Opps Inc ‡@	1885.00	...	+6.00	1.14
UK Sml Cos Inc ‡@	262.70	...	+1.60	0.04

AXA FUND MANAGERS LTD
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AXA Trusts

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Gen Acc ‡@	2101.00	...	-53.00	2.64
Gen Inc ‡@	1079.00	...	-32.00	2.70

UK/Global Investment Companies

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Acc A ‡@	234.70	...	+0.10	1.18
Extra Inc Inc B ‡@	86.74	...	-1.81	1.16
Global Gwth Acc R ‡@	288.10	...	+1.20	0.52
Japan Acc A ‡@	162.30	...	+0.90	1.51
Pac Gwth Acc A ‡@	479.80	...	-18.60	...

CIS UNIT MANAGERS LTD
08457 46 46 46

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European Gwth ‡@	215.00	...	+1.60	1.10
Sus Leaders ‡@	806.70	...	+9.00	1.15
UK Growth ‡@	629.00	...	+4.00	2.04
UK Income ‡@	206.50	...	-1.10	5.09

CLOSE FUND MANAGEMENT LTD
0870 606 6402

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Beacon Inv ‡	84.88	...	+0.45	0.01

Dealing: 020 7426 6232

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Winchester ‡	3568.89	...	+15.84	1.02

EDENTREE INV MGMT LTD
0800 358 3010

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Resp & Sust Sterling Bond ‡	84.59	...	+0.06	4.13
Resp & Sust Eurp Eq ‡	327.90	...	+1.90	1.91
Resp & Sust Glbl Eq ‡	332.50	...	+6.10	0.53
Resp & Sust Mgd Income ‡	123.10	...	+0.60	4.87
Resp & Sust UK Eq ‡	224.70	...	+1.00	1.53
Resp & Sust UK Equity Opps ‡	277.50	...	+4.70	1.16

F & C FUND MANAGEMENT LTD (OEICS)
Enqs: 0870 601 6183 Dealing: 0870 601 6083
Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corporate Bd ‡@	49.99	...	-0.58	1.57
Emerging Mkts ‡@	116.50	...	-8.20	...
Euro Gwth & Inc 1 ‡@	1281.00	...	+9.00	...
Extra Inc Bond ‡@	43.70	...	-0.01	1.88
FTSE All-Shr Track ‡@	429.90	...	+1.10	2.90
Global Gwth SC1 ‡@	302.90	...	+3.40	...
High Inc Trst @	10.98	11.58	+0.03	5.52
Max Inc Bond ‡@	42.97	...	+0.04	3.39
Multi Man Caut ‡@	70.41	...	+0.79	3.18
Multi Man Distr ‡@	60.44	...	+0.45	3.37
North Amer ‡@	814.90	...	+21.40	...
Pacific Gwth ‡@	467.60	...	-3.60	...
Strategic Bd ‡@	195.80	...	-0.50	1.46
UK Equity ‡@	3446.00	...	+34.00	1.27
UK Gwth & Inc Acc 1 ‡@	658.50	...	+2.90	...
UK Gwth & Inc Dist ‡@	234.70	...	+1.00	...
UK Smaller Cos ‡@	1027.00	...	...	...

FIDELITY INTERNATIONAL
Private Clnts 0800 414161 Broker Dlgs 0800 414181

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Spec Sits ‡@	2161.00	...	+27.00	...
American ‡@	5270.00	...	+171.00	...
Euro Opps ‡@	602.50	...	+3.20	0.31
European ‡@	3590.00	...	+38.00	...
Extra Income ‡@	22.25	...	+0.03	5.55
Glob Spec Sits ‡@	5468.00	...	+110.00	...
Global Focus ‡@	2922.00	...	+62.00	...
International ‡@	149.50	...	+1.10	0.08
Japan ‡@	567.40	...	+16.20	...
Moneybldr Bal ‡@	43.79	...	-0.01	3.86
Moneybldr Glob	327.60	327.60	-1.90	0.21
Moneybldr Gwth ‡@	76.12	...	+0.20	2.97
Moneybldr Inc ‡@	29.10	...	+0.03	...
Moneybldr UK Ind ‡@	131.64	...	+0.37	3.14
Special Sits ‡@	4519.00	...	+23.00	2.56
Wealthbuilder	69.75	72.18	-0.11	0.44

HALIFAX INVESTMENT FUND MGRS LTD
01296 386 386
Authorised Inv Funds
Share Class `C

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corporate Bond ‡@	32.49	...	+0.01	...
Ethical ‡@	110.80	...	+2.30	0.01
European ‡@	115.30	...	+1.00	1.91
Far Eastern ‡	111.00	...	-0.40	...
Fund of Inv Tst ‡@	134.50	...	+0.70	0.43
Intl Gwth ‡	125.70	...	+2.20	1.44
Japanese ‡	71.31	...	+1.29	...
North Amer ‡	148.00	...	+3.20	...
Smaller Cos ‡@	104.30	...	...	1.17
Special Sits ‡@	51.67	...	+0.50	...
UK Equity Inc ‡@	92.90	...	+0.11	3.75
UK FTSE 100 IT ‡@	71.90	...	+0.38	...
UK FTSE All-S IT ‡@	80.76	...	+0.31	...
UK Growth ‡@	84.12	...	+0.03	...

HSBC GLOBAL ASSET MGMT (UK) LTD
Enq: 0845 745 6123 Dlg: 0845 745 6126 Mon-Fri 8-6
HSBC Index Tracker Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Ind Acc ‡@	911.70	...	+10.87	...
Amer Ind Inc ‡@	741.75	...	+9.47	...
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	1230.19	...	+4.81	2.13
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	785.98	...	+3.07	2.20
FTSE 100 Ind Acc ‡@	283.66	...	+1.23	2.99
FTSE 100 Ind Inc ‡@	128.88	...	+0.56	3.06
FTSE 250 Ind Acc ‡@	290.16	...	-0.22	2.25
FTSE 250 Ind Inc ‡@	178.19	...	-0.14	2.25
FTSE All-S Acc ‡@	723.91	...	+6.64	3.02
FTSE All-S Inc ‡@	365.97	...	+3.36	3.09
Jap Ind Acc ‡@	143.74	...	+2.61	1.93
Jap Ind Inc ‡@	112.04	...	+2.04	2.25
Pac Ind Acc ‡@	492.34	...	+3.90	...
Pac Ind Inc ‡@	310.75	...	+2.52	...

HSBC Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Share Class

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc ‡@	242.56	...	+1.01	0.92
Balanced Inc ‡@	151.95	...	+3.09	...
Corp Bd Acc ‡@	266.36	...	-0.65	...
Corp Bd Inc ‡@	102.41	...	-0.25	...
Gilt & Fd Int Acc ‡@	497.78	...	+7.06	...
Gilt & Fd Int Inc ‡@	74.17	...	+1.05	...
Income Acc ‡@	725.62	...	+0.70	4.09
Income Inc ‡@	297.71	...	+0.28	4.22
Monthly Inc Acc ‡@	313.41	...	-1.33	3.21
Monthly Inc Inc ‡@	129.44	...	+0.01	3.90
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Acc ‡@	148.36	...	+0.11	4.01
UK Grth & Inc Ret B Inc ‡@	65.48	...	+0.04	4.13
UK Gth & Inc Acc ‡@	148.36	...	+0.11	4.01
UK Gth & Inc Inc ‡@	65.48	...	+0.04	4.13

HSBC Specialist Investment Funds (OEIC)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Index Retail Acc ‡@	911.70	...	+10.87	...
American Index Retail Inc ‡@	741.75	...	+9.47	...
Asian Gth Acc ‡@	147.77	...	-0.67	...
Asian Gth Inc ‡@	130.99	...	-0.59	...
Chinese Eq Acc ‡@	513.81	...	-13.85	...
Chinese Eq Inc ‡@	434.76	...	-11.72	...
Euro Gth Acc ‡@	973.97	...	-10.00	0.41
Euro Gth Inc ‡@	817.05	...	-8.39	0.44

IGNIS ASSET MGMT
Dlg: 0141 222 8282

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Gth Inc @	322.55	340.42	+1.71	...
Balanced Growth @	262.17	276.69	-1.59	1.52
Balanced Growth Acc @	393.13	414.92	-2.40	1.49
Corporate Bond ‡@	99.69	...	-1.17	4.77
European Growth @	403.88	426.26	-1.19	2.18
European Growth Acc @	475.71	502.07	-1.47	2.24
Glob Gwth @	331.53	349.90	+2.16	...
Higher Yield @	83.98	88.64	+0.86	4.43
Higher Yield Acc @	275.04	290.28	+2.83	4.32
Japan @	49.06	51.78	-2.35	...
Managed @	130.89	138.15	+0.95	0.66
Managed Trust @	71.96	76.96	+1.59	...
Mngd Pfolio Inc @	95.54	100.84	+0.63	0.58
Pacific Grth @	498.71	526.34	-0.26	1.34
Smaller Comp @	756.24	798.14	-8.40	0.15
Smaller Cos @	628.94	663.79	-6.93	0.21

INSIGHT INVESTMENT FDS MANAGEMENT LTD
Client Servs: 0207 163 4000
Insight Investment Multi-Manager Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Well Bldr Bal Acc ‡@	96.05	...	+0.24	...
Well Bldr Gwth Acc ‡@	93.79	...	-0.32	...

INVESCO FUND MGRS LTD
Dling: 0800 085 8571 Inv Serv: 0800 085 8677
Brkr Serv: 0800 028 2121
INVESCO Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Str Inc N/Trl ‡@	323.57	...	-2.78	7.05

INVESCO PERPETUAL Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Childrens Acc ‡@	475.31	...	+3.80	2.27
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	199.78	...	+0.07	...
High Income Inc ‡@	320.04	...	+0.66	3.01
Income & Grth Inc ‡@	424.41	...	+3.12	3.03
Income Inc ‡@	1257.75	...	+2.53	2.15
Money Acc ‡@	93.04	...	+0.08	1.65
Monthly Inc Plus Inc ‡@	90.99	...	+0.09	6.18
UK Aggressive Inc ‡@	154.28	...	+0.90	...
UK Growth Acc ‡@	921.11	...	-0.40	1.62
UK Sml Cos Eqty Acc ‡@	1346.44	...	+7.64	...
UK Sml Cos Gwth ‡@	82.54	...	-1.65	...

INVESTEC FUND MGRS
Broker Support and Dealing: 020 7597 1900
OEIC Series i,ii,iii, & iv

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American A Acc ‡@	672.63	...	+11.99	...
Asia ex Japan A Acc ‡@	726.01	...	-3.87	...
Capital Accumulator A Acc ‡@	231.48	...	+8.50	...
Cautious Managed A Acc ‡@	377.90	...	-0.64	1.91
Cautious Managed A Inc ‡@	236.78	...	-0.40	1.94
Diversified Growth A Acc ‡@	129.71	...	-0.03	0.60
Diversified Growth A Inc ‡@	137.35	...	-0.04	...
Diversified Income A Acc ‡@	323.65	...	-0.47	2.82
Diversified Income A Inc ‡@	68.28	...	-0.10	4.24
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc ‡@	113.26	...	+0.18	4.84
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Acc Gross ‡@	125.82	...	+0.06	...
Emerging Mkts Blended Debt A Inc ‡@	64.75	...	+0.10	6.70
Emerging Mkts Equity A Acc ‡@	142.21	...	-1.42	0.96
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Acc ‡@	183.71	...	+0.66	5.02
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt A Inc ‡@	71.18	...	+0.25	5.26
Emrg Mkts Local Curr Debt Gross I Acc ‡@	220.49	...	-1.26	...
Enhanced Natural Resources A Acc ‡@	134.24	...	-4.54	...
Global Bond A Acc ‡@	139.30	...	+5.98	...
Global Bond A Inc ‡@	109.33	...	+4.52	...
Global Bond I Gross Inc ‡@	1167.00	...	+46.14	...
Global Dynamic A Acc ‡@	193.61	...	+6.88	0.47
Global Energy A Acc ‡@	170.97	...	-4.81	...
Global Equity A Acc ‡@	229.95	...	+2.87	0.13
Global Franchise A Acc ‡@	303.53	...	+3.54	...
Global Free Enterprise A Acc ‡@	1224.01	...	+5.86	0.38
Global Gold A Acc ‡@	205.68	...	-14.08	0.80
Global Special Situations A Acc ‡@	314.88	...	+6.38	...
Global Special Situations A Inc ‡@	243.56	...	+4.93	...
Managed Growth A Acc ‡@	285.89	...	-1.11	...
Monthly High Income A Acc ‡@	243.45	...	+2.02	3.54
Monthly High Income A Inc ‡@	63.17	...	+0.42	5.01
Multi-Asset Protector A Acc ‡@	167.35	...	...	...
Strategic Bond A Acc ‡@	244.54	...	+0.50	...
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	119.47	...	+0.23	...
Target Return A Acc ‡@	102.03	...	+0.39	0.82
Target Return A Inc ‡@	87.63	...	-0.07	0.87
UK Alpha A Acc ‡@	2712.33	...	+19.86	1.95
UK Blue Chip A Acc ‡@	770.11	...	+5.67	...
UK Smaller Companies A Acc ‡@	4675.55	...	-15.00	...
UK Smaller Companies A Inc ‡@	4193.68	...	-13.46	...
UK Special Situations A Acc ‡@	1431.99	...	+9.90	1.54
UK Special Situations A Inc ‡@	513.32	...	+3.54	1.57



For ISIS Asset Mgmt see F&C Fd Mgmt Ltd (OEICS)

JANUS HENDERSON INVESTORS
Investors Serv: 0800 832 832 Dlng: 0845 946 4646

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
All Stks Credit A Inc ‡@	113.60	...	...	2.12
Asian Div Inc U Trst Inc ‡@	75.70	...	-0.33	6.03
Cautious Man Fd A Acc ‡@	289.30	...	-0.30	...
Cautious Man Fd A Inc ‡@	141.40	...	-0.20	...
China Opp Fund A Acc ‡@	1086.00	...	-23.00	0.28
Emg Mkts Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	186.90	...	+1.00	0.76
Erpn Grth Fund A Acc ‡@	304.00	...	+1.00	1.15
Erpn Sel Opps Fd A Acc ‡@	2312.00	...	+14.00	1.15
Fix Int Mnthly Inc Fd Acc ‡@	28.95	...	-0.05	4.79
Global Equity Fund Acc ‡@	4158.00	...	+37.00	...
Global Equity Income A Inc ‡@	67.06	...	+0.39	3.28
Global Tech A Acc ‡@	2949.00	...	+86.00	...
Instl UK Idx Opps A Acc ‡@	116.63	...	+0.27	2.87
M-Asset Abs Ret A Acc ‡@	165.20	...	-0.40	0.81
M-Man Active Fd A Acc ‡@	255.90	...	+1.50	...
M-Man Inc Grth A Inc ‡@	147.30	...	+0.40	2.71
M-Man Inc Grth Fd A Acc ‡@	189.30	...	+0.50	...
Sterling Bond U Trst Acc ‡@	204.40	...	-0.10	1.82
Sterling Bond U Trst Inc ‡@	55.54	...	-0.02	1.84
Strategic Bond A Inc ‡@	104.70	...	-0.30	3.26
UK Abs Ret Fd A Acc ‡@	169.80	...	+0.40	...
UK Alpha Fund A Acc ‡@	140.50	...	+0.80	1.12
UK Irsh Sm Co Fd A Acc ‡@	742.50	...	+6.60	...
UK Property A Acc @	264.95	278.15	+0.38	2.63
UK Property A Inc @	105.80	111.07	+0.15	2.68
US Growth Fund A Acc ‡@	1711.00	...	+30.00	...

JP MORGAN ASSET MGMT
OEIC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Asia A Acc ‡@	259.00	...	-1.80	...
Emerging Mkts ‡@	261.50	...	+1.30	...
Eur Dyn (ex-UK) A Acc ‡@	270.30	...	+8.30	0.47
Euro Smllr Cos ‡@	864.00	...	+24.20	...
Europe A Acc ‡@	1734.00	...	+62.00	1.35
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Acc ‡@	117.30	...	+1.40	5.30
Gbl Hi Yld Bd A Inc ‡@	30.89	...	+0.38	5.45
Gl ex-UK Bd A Acc ‡@	257.40	...	-0.60	0.07
Gl ex-UK Bd A Inc ‡@	196.80	...	-0.40	0.08
Glb Fins A Acc ‡@	1077.00	...	+12.00	...
Global A Acc ‡@	2049.00	...	+25.00	...
Japan A Acc ‡@	516.80	...	+4.20	...
Multi-Man Tst A Acc ‡@	1268.00	...	+20.00	0.57
Multi-Man Tst A Inc ‡@	1127.00	...	+18.00	0.58
Nat Resources ‡@	951.20	...	+27.20	...
New Europe A ‡@	155.70	...	-73.10	2.11
Portfolio ‡@	295.60	...	+0.60	0.98
Stg Corp Bd A Acc ‡@	85.59	...	-0.61	...
Stg Corp Bd A Inc ‡@	48.30	...	-0.35	...
UK Act 350 A Acc ‡@	199.00	...	-1.30	...
UK Dynamic Acc ‡@	206.70	...	+6.80	...
UK Dynamic Inc ‡@	148.20	...	+4.90	...
UK Equity A Acc ‡@	401.90	...	-4.70	3.45
UK Equity A Inc ‡@	46.44	...	-0.54	3.49
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Acc ‡@	167.10	...	+2.30	3.41
UK Eqy & Bd Inc Inc ‡@	90.29	...	+0.88	3.50
UK Higher Inc A Acc ‡@	1132.00	...	+12.00	...
UK Higher Inc A Inc ‡@	531.30	...	+4.30	...
UK Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	563.30	...	+18.80	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Acc ‡@	197.90	...	+5.70	...
UK Str Eq Inc A Inc ‡@	100.50	...	+2.87	...
US A Acc ‡@	1036.00	...	+14.00	...
US Sm Cos A Acc ‡@	976.20	...	+26.90	...

JUPITER UT MGRS LTD
020 7581 3020

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Absolute Return ‡@	32.23	...	-0.03	0.11
Distribution and Growth ‡@	96.38	...	+0.27	...
Emg Euro Opps ‡@	145.34	...	-72.04	...
Euro Special Sits ‡@	468.11	...	+5.07	...
European ‡@	2991.63	...	+32.41	...
Financial Opps ‡@	691.58	...	+9.03	0.20
Income Trust ‡@	510.09	...	-3.04	3.92
Merlin Bal (Acc) ‡@	232.68	...	+1.97	2.05
Merlin Gwth (Acc) ‡@	538.39	...	+2.89	...
Merlin Inc (Acc) ‡@	344.29	...	-0.04	2.86
Merlin Wwide (Inc) ‡@	378.37	...	+3.05	...
UK Growth ‡@	262.62	...	+2.69	0.67
UK Special Sits (Inc) ‡@	208.72	...	-1.12	2.15

LEGAL & GENERAL (UT MGRS) LTD
Enquiries: 0870 050 0955 Dealing: 0870 050 0956

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Acc @	2616.00	2639.00	+17.00	2.12
Equity Dist @	893.80	902.00	+5.60	2.15
Euro Ind Acc ‡@	544.40	...	+4.60	2.11
Euro Ind Inc ‡@	356.60	...	+3.00	2.16
Fixed Int Acc ‡@	130.90	...	+0.20	2.35
Fixed Int Dist ‡@	61.04	...	+0.07	2.38
Glob Gwth Acc @	243.90	243.90	+0.60	1.15
Glob Health Acc ‡@	109.20	...	-0.10	...
Glob Tech Acc ‡@	94.41	...	+3.04	...
Gwth Tst Acc @	106.00	106.50	-2.10	0.17
High Inc Acc ‡@	122.80	...	+0.20	...
Japan Ind Acc ‡@	70.97	...	+0.97	1.75
Pacific Ind Acc ‡@	196.20	...	-0.50	...
UK 100 Ind Acc @	180.90	180.90	+7.60	3.19
UK Active Opps Acc @	249.90	252.90	+1.80	...
UK Index Acc ‡@	352.80	...	+1.00	3.11
UK Index Dist ‡@	167.60	...	+0.50	3.19
US Ind Acc ‡@	797.30	...	+13.70	...
Worldwide Acc ‡@	336.90	...	+1.60	0.73

M & G SECURITIES
Enq: 0800 390 390 Dealing Line: 0800 328 3196
Authorised Inv Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Charifund Inc ‡	1470.97	...	+0.92	5.51

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 1

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Smlr Cos Acc ‡	525.29	...	+6.31	...
Euro Smlr Cos Inc ‡	462.50	...	+5.55	...

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 2

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Extra Income Inc ‡	701.81	...	-1.48	5.01
Gilt & Fxd Int Inc ‡	75.40	...	-0.13	2.59
Gl Hi Yd Bd Inc ‡	39.18	...	+0.05	5.66
Index Linked Bd Inc ‡	113.95	...	+0.45	...
Index Trckr Inc ‡	78.18	...	+0.21	3.63
Short Dated Corp Bd Inc ‡	25.00	...	+0.03	2.80
UK Select A Inc ‡	2819.63	...	+7.77	2.27

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 3

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bd A Inc ‡	33.48	...	+0.04	...
Dividend Inc ‡	53.07	...	-0.61	5.79
Recovery A Inc ‡	109.29	...	+0.19	3.50
Sml Cos Inc ‡	330.83	...	-1.70	2.41

Sterling Class A Investment Funds 4

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Episode Allocation A Inc ‡@	138.14	...	-0.11	...

MARKS & SPENCER UNIT TRUST LTD
0808 005 5555

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
High Income	85.89	85.89	-0.04	4.19
High Income Acc	243.00	243.00	-0.10	4.08
UK 100 Comp Acc @	465.50	465.50	+2.30	2.87
UK 100 Cos @	228.70	228.70	+1.10	2.94
UK Select Pflo @	344.60	344.60	+1.60	3.17
UK Selection Port Acc @	713.00	713.00	+3.10	1.49
Worldwide Mgd Acc @	939.10	939.10	+6.20	1.30
Wwide Mgd @	549.30	549.30	+3.60	1.31

MORGAN STANLEY INVESTMENT MGMT LTD
Enquires: 0800 0961 962
The Morgan Stanley Funds (UK)
Class A Shares
Equity

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Dev Opp Fund F Acc ‡@	760.15	...	+11.02	...
Dev Opp Fund I Acc ‡@	755.92	...	+10.93	...
Glob Bal Inc F F Acc ‡@	927.46	...	+6.34	5.25
Glob Bal Inc F F Inc ‡@	848.22	...	+5.79	5.44
Glob Bal Inc F I Acc ‡@	925.97	...	+6.31	5.27
Glob Bal Inc F I Inc ‡@	846.70	...	+5.78	5.46
Glob Bal Sust F F Acc ‡@	934.51	...	+4.72	1.49
Glob Bal Sust F F Inc ‡@	914.80	...	+4.62	1.50
Glob Bal Sust F I Acc ‡@	933.22	...	+4.69	1.43
Glob Bal Sust F I Inc ‡@	914.60	...	+4.60	1.43
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund F Inc ‡@	1324.27	...	+14.39	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Acc ‡@	1845.07	...	+19.95	...
Glob Br Eq Inc Fund I Inc ‡@	1416.14	...	+15.32	...
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1602.74	...	+11.44	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	13778.53	...	+144.31	...
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	1529.34	...	+10.92	0.70
Glob Br Fund I Inc (PH) ‡@	3772.01	...	+39.50	...
Glob Ins Fund F Acc ‡@	548.30	...	+34.14	...
Glob Ins Fund F Inc ‡@	548.30	...	+34.14	...
Glob Ins Fund I Acc ‡@	545.54	...	+33.95	...
Glob Ins Fund I Inc ‡@	545.54	...	+33.95	...
Glob Sust Fund F Acc (PH) ‡@	1171.63	...	+9.31	0.62
Glob Sust Fund F Inc ‡@	1243.25	...	+14.72	0.62
Glob Sust Fund I Acc ‡@	1260.40	...	+14.88	0.47
Glob Sust Fund I Acc (PH) ‡@	1169.90	...	+9.25	0.47
Glob Sustain Fund F Acc ‡@	1267.51	...	+15.01	0.62
Stg Corp Bond F F Acc ‡@	120.37	...	+0.12	...
Stg Corp Bond F F Inc ‡@	94.15	...	+0.09	...
Stg Corp Bond F I Acc ‡@	2559.04	...	+2.43	...
Stg Corp Bond F I Inc ‡@	1335.63	...	+1.27	...
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Acc ‡@	938.18	...	-0.39	2.81
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F F Inc ‡@	892.73	...	-0.38	2.88
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Acc ‡@	933.67	...	-0.43	2.62
Sust Fixed Inc Opps F I Inc ‡@	892.48	...	-0.40	2.67
US Adv F F Acc ‡@	1487.31	...	+90.49	...
US Adv F F Acc (PH) ‡@	849.80	...	+47.77	...
US Adv F I Acc ‡@	1581.35	...	+96.13	...
US Adv F I Acc (PH) ‡@	890.26	...	+50.00	...

SANTANDER UNIT TST MGRS
08457 413002

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Pfolio Inc ‡@	110.50	...	...	2.41
Bal Port Gwth Acc ‡@	232.50	...	+0.40	1.18
Equity Inc Inc ‡@	199.80	...	+0.50	5.12
N&P UK Gwth Inc ‡@	182.80	...	+6.00	3.09
Stkmkt 100 Tkr @	268.30	268.30	+1.20	3.11
UK Growth Acc ‡@	458.60	...	+1.40	3.18
UK Growth Inc ‡@	241.50	...	+0.70	3.26

SCOTTISH MUTUAL INV MNGRS LTD
0141 248 6100

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European Inc	1777.00	1873.48	+12.14	0.78
Far Eastern Inc	584.69	617.09	+3.79	...
Intl Growth Inc	380.56	400.59	-0.13	0.75
Japanese Inc	41.85	41.85	+0.57	...
Mutual European	2762.93	2908.99	-73.67	1.11
Mutual Far Eastern	887.86	937.06	-6.41	...
Mutual North Am	1983.00	2092.88	+19.24	0.24
Mutual UK Eq	1419.40	1428.80	-5.79	2.59
Nth American Inc	1227.65	1295.67	+29.21	...
UK Equity Inc	562.23	593.38	-8.90	1.56

SCOTTISH WIDOWS UNIT TRUST MGRS
0845 300 2244
Authorised Inv Funds (OEICs)
OEIC A Class
Managed Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Port A Acc ‡@	237.60	...	-0.10	0.01
Caut Port A Acc ‡@	207.10	...	+0.30	0.43
Caut Port A Inc ‡@	152.00	...	+0.30	0.60
Opps Port A Acc ‡@	280.20	...	-0.70	...
Prog Port A Acc ‡@	266.60	...	-0.50	...

Overseas Growth Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Eur Sel Gth A Acc ‡@	3569.00	...	+35.00	2.03

Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Trkr A Acc ‡@	393.60	...	+2.40	2.91
UK Trkr A Inc ‡@	195.00	...	+1.30	2.98

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bond A Acc ‡@	283.60	...	-0.40	2.49
Corp Bond A Inc ‡@	104.40	...	-0.20	2.52
Envir Invtr A Acc ‡@	394.00	...	+0.20	1.73
Hi Inc Bond A Ac ‡@	231.20	...	+0.40	...
Hi Inc Bond A Inc ‡@	67.77	...	+0.10	...
Hi Res A Acc ‡@	385.80	...	+0.80	3.66
Hi Res A Inc ‡@	119.70	...	+0.30	3.74
Safety Plus A Acc ‡@	40.49	...	-0.14	...
Strat Inc A Acc ‡@	187.20	...	-0.30	3.54
Strat Inc A Inc ‡@	81.54	...	-0.10	3.61
UK Gwth A Acc ‡@	201.10	...	+1.50	...
UK Sel Gwth A Acc ‡@	2397.00	...	-4.00	...

OEIC B Class
Tracker and Specialist Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Trkr B Acc ‡@	434.70	...	+2.80	3.00
UK Trkr B Inc ‡@	193.80	...	+1.20	3.08

UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Corp Bond B Acc ‡@	370.70	...	+0.40	1.39
Corp Bond B Inc ‡@	136.30	...	+0.10	1.40
UK Gwth B Acc ‡@	205.60	...	-0.60	1.79
UK Sel Gwth B Acc ‡@	2481.00	...	+8.00	1.09

OEIC C Class
UK and Income Investment Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
UK Gth C Inc ‡@	129.80	...	+1.00	3.27
UK Sel Gwth C Acc ‡@	2598.00	...	+8.00	1.29

STANDARD LIFE INVESTMENTS
0845 279 3003
Investment Funds (OEIC) - Retail Shares

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
AAA Inc CAT Acc ‡@	88.95	...	-0.03	1.38
AAA Inc CAT Inc ‡@	49.88	...	-0.02	1.39
AAA Income Acc ‡@	96.94	...	-0.03	1.79
Amer Eq Gth Acc ‡@	200.50	...	+3.80	...
Corp Bond Acc ‡@	155.60	...	+0.10	3.24
Corp Bond Inc ‡@	51.64	...	+0.02	3.31
Euro Eq Gth Acc ‡@	262.10	...	...	...
Glb Advtg CAT Acc ‡@	148.60	...	+0.90	1.38
Glob Advtg Acc ‡@	196.20	...	+1.20	1.35
Glob Eq Uncstrd Acc ‡@	158.90	...	+4.20	...
Higher Inc Acc ‡@	145.20	...	+0.20	4.40
Higher Inc Inc ‡@	44.76	...	+0.05	4.53
Japan Eq Gth Acc ‡@	127.40	...	-0.30	...
Managed Acc ‡@	365.50	...	+4.50	0.69
Select Inc Acc ‡@	91.51	...	-0.06	...
Select Inc Inc ‡@	51.26	...	-0.29	...
UK Eq Gth Acc ‡@	372.70	...	-0.20	...
UK Eq Hi Alpha ‡@	230.00	...	-0.10	...
UK Eq Hi Inc Acc ‡@	270.90	...	+0.10	4.49
UK Eq Hi Inc Inc ‡@	73.32	...	+0.03	4.65
UK Ethical Acc ‡@	205.10	...	+0.50	2.22
UK Opps Acc ‡@	234.40	...	-1.90	...
UK Opps Inc ‡@	211.70	...	-1.70	...
UK Smlr Cos Acc ‡@	756.00	...	+3.20	0.66

SVS BROWN SHIPLEY FUNDS
Enquiries:0141 222 1151

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced A Acc ‡@	133.94	...	+0.72	1.25
Balanced A Inc ‡@	119.08	...	+0.64	1.26
Cautious A Acc ‡@	111.94	...	...	1.81
Cautious A Inc ‡@	96.36	...	...	1.83
Dynamic A Acc ‡@	325.89	...	+2.81	0.91
Dynamic A Inc ‡@	292.41	...	+2.52	0.91
Growth A Acc ‡@	336.03	...	+2.33	1.09
Income A Acc ‡@	246.47	...	+0.59	...
Sterling Bond Acc ‡@	242.37	...	+1.39	3.52
Sterling Bond Inc ‡@	97.00	...	+0.54	3.61

THREADNEEDLE INVESTMENTS
Client Serv: 0800 0683000
Intermediary Serv: 0800 0684000
Institutional Shares (Class 2) (500000 GBP)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Threadneedle UK Eq Opps Ins Inc ‡@	130.14	...	+0.92	1.50

Retail Shares (Class 1)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Threadneedle HY Bd Rtl Inc ‡@	36.32	...	-0.10	...
Threadneedle Mthly Etr Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	79.55	...	+0.17	3.55
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Ins Inc ‡@	53.54	...	+0.01	2.57
Threadneedle SterlingCorpBd Rtl Inc ‡@	53.44	...	...	2.23
Threadneedle Stg Bd Ret Inc ‡@	43.72	...	-0.12	2.46
Threadneedle Strat Bd Ret ‡@	40.62	...	-0.11	3.65
Threadneedle UK Eq Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	101.53	...	+0.86	3.40
Threadneedle UK Growth & Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	93.96	...	+1.00	2.72
Threadneedle UK Insti Rtl ‡@	185.17	...	+0.32	1.83
Threadneedle UK Mthly Inc Rtl Inc ‡@	69.64	...	+0.17	4.12
Threadneedle UK Rtl Inc ‡@	139.50	...	+0.92	1.43
Threadneedle UK Smaller Coms Rtl Inc ‡@	354.96	...	-0.09	...

For Resolution see Ignis

TU FUND MANAGERS LIMITED

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
British	965.70	965.70	+11.20	...
European	210.70	219.40	+3.90	...

This list contains unit trusts and Oeics widely held by private investors. The weekly price change is based on a Friday-to-Thursday trading period.* Yield expressed as CAR (Compound Annual Return); † Ex dividend; ‡ Middle price; . . . No significant data. # Periodic charge deducted from capital; @ Exit charge

MORNINGSTAR® Data as shown is for information purposes only. No offer is made by Morningstar or this publication

Best buys

Data supplied by Moneyfacts

Savings

Easy access (without introductory bonus)

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Chip	via app	Instant Access	£1	3.71%
Shawbrook Bank	via website	Easy Access 35	£1,000	3.65%
Yorkshire Building Society	via website	Online Rainy Day 2	£1	3.60%
Al Rayan Bank A	via website	Everyday Saver (3)	£5,000	3.56%
Aldermore	via website	Double Access 1	£1,000	3.55%

Long-term fixed rates

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Isbank	via website	Raisin UK Deposit (4 yr)	£1,000	4.95% F
Isbank	via website	Raisin UK Deposit (5 yr)	£1,000	4.95% F
Isbank	via website	Raisin UK Deposit (7 yr)	£1,000	4.95% F
United Trust Bank	via website	UTB Bond (5 yr)	£5,000	4.90% F
United Trust Bank	via website	UTB Bond (4 yr)	£5,000	4.89% F

Easy access cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Cynergy Bank	via website	Online Isa (36)	£1	3.50%
Shawbrook Bank	via website	Access Isa - 24	£1,000	3.45%
Leeds BS	via website	Ltd Access Isa (59)	£1,000	3.40%
Yorkshire Building Society	via website	Limited e-Isa	£1	3.35%
Chorley Building Society	via website	Easy Access Isa	£1	3.35%

Fixed-cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Virgin Money	via website	Fixed E-Isa 575 (24.4.26)	£1	4.37% F
Secure Trust Bank	via website	Fixed Isa (29.5.26)	£1,000	4.35% F
Hampshire Trust Bank	via website	Isa Bond (6) (3 yr)	£1	4.25% F
West Brom BS	via website	WeBSave Isa (31.5.26)	£1	4.20% F
Leeds BS	via website	Fixed Isa (138) (31.5.26)	£100	4.20% F

Lifetime cash Isas

Provider	Contact	Account	Min	AER
Moneybox	via website	Cash Lifetime Isa	£1	3.50% B
Beehive Money	via website	Homebuyer Lifetime Isa	£1	3.00%
Beehive Money	via website	Retirement Lifetime Isa	£1	3.00%
Paragon Bank	via website	Cash Lifetime Isa - 3	£1	2.50%
Newcastle BS	via website	Cash Lifetime Isa (3)	£1	2.50%

Regular savings accounts

Provider	Contact	Account	Min Mntly	AER
NatWest	via website	Digital Regular Saver	£1	6.17% V
Royal Bank of Scotland	via website	Digital Regular Saver	£1	6.17% V
Monmouthshire BS	via branch	Coronation Saver	£0	5.60% V
Bank of Scotland	via website	Monthly Saver	£25	5.50% F
Halifax	via website	Regular Saver	£25	5.50% F

Pension annuities

Single life

Provider	Contact	Age 60	Age 65	Age 70
Canada Life	0345 300 3199	£2,897.76	£3,226.92	£3,656.28
Legal & General	0345 765 4465	£2,898.12	£3,176.28	£3,595.92
Aviva	0800 015 5064	£2,748.61	£3,102.54	£3,534.49
Just	0345 302 2287	£2,646.00	£3,014.40	£3,376.08

Joint life

Provider	Contact	Male: Age 60 Female: Age 55	Age 65 Age 60	Age 70 Age 65
Canada Life	0345 300 3199	£2,582.04	£2,778.24	£3,077.28
Legal & General	0345 765 4465	£2,538.60	£2,746.08	£3,030.60
Aviva	0800 015 5064	£2,325.93	£2,525.67	£2,789.84
Just	0345 302 2287	£2,305.44	£2,508.12	£2,717.64

Based on a pension pot of £50,000

Mortgages

First-time buyer mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
TSB	03459 758 758	5.59%F	to 30.6.25	95%	-	To 30.6.25
Coventry BS	0800 121 8899	5.61%F	to 31.10.25	95%	-	To 31.10.25
Nationwide BS	0800 302010	5.24%F	for 3 years	95%	£999	1st 3 yrs
Hanley Economic BS	01782 255000	4.89%F	to 31.7.28	95%	-	To 31.7.28
Nationwide BS	0800 302010	4.99%F	for 5 years	95%	-	1st 5 yrs

Remortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
first direct	0800 482448	4.39% F	for 2 years	60%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.44% F	for 2 years	75%	£490	1st 2 yrs
Lloyds Bank	0800 783 3534	3.88% F	to 31.8.28	60%	£999	To 31.8.28
Lloyds Bank	0800 783 3534	4.01% F	to 31.8.28	75%	£999	To 31.8.28
first direct	0800 482448	4.19% F	for 5 years	80%	£490	1st 5 yrs

Short-term fixed-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
first direct	0800 482448	4.39%	for 2 years	60%	£490	1st 2 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.44%	for 2 years	75%	£490	1st 2 yrs
Furness BS	0800 220568	4.78%	for 2 years	90%	£999	1st 2 yrs
Leeds BS	0345 045 4049	4.35%	to 31.8.26	75%	£999	To 31.8.26
Nationwide BS	0800 302010	4.69%	for 3 years	90%	£999	1st 3 yrs

Long-term fixed-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
first direct	0800 482448	4.03%	for 5 years	60%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.09%	for 5 years	75%	£490	1st 5 yrs
first direct	0800 482448	4.29%	for 5 years	85%	£490	1st 5 yrs
TSB	03459 758 758	4.54%	to 30.6.28	90%	-	To 30.6.28
Nationwide BS	0800 302010	4.34%	for 10 yrs	85%	£999	1st 10 yrs

Discounted variable-rate mortgages

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
Leek Building Society	0808 169 6680	4.10%	for 2 years	80%	£995	1st 2 yrs
Leek Building Society	0808 169 6680	4.50%	for 2 years	85%	-	1st 2 yrs
Newbury BS	01635 555777	4.24%	for 3 years	75%	£600	1st 3 yrs
Tipton & Coseley BS	0800 833853	4.74%	to 31.7.26	90%	£999	To 31.7.26
Chorley BS	01257 235001	4.80%	for 5 years	90%	£999	1st 5 yrs

Help-to-buy mortgage guarantee

Provider	Contact	Initial Rate	Period	Max LTV	Fee	Redmptn charge until
Principality BS	0330 333 4002	4.55% D	to 31.8.25	60%	-	To 31.8.25
Loughborough BS	01509 631950	4.99% D	for 2 years	80%	-	1st 2 yrs
NatWest	0800 587 6599	4.81% F	to 30.9.25	75%	£995	To 30.9.25
Principality BS	0330 333 4002	4.28% F	to 31.8.28	60%	£1,395	To 31.8.28
HSBC	0800 256 6876	4.41% F	to 31.8.28	75%	£1,999	To 31.8.28

The selections above are based on a combination of initial rate, fee and incentive available.

National Savings & investments

Accounts and bonds

	Notice or Term	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Green Savings Bonds 4	3 Yr Bnd	£100	4.20% F	Yearly
Income Bonds	None	£500	2.89% V	Monthly
Direct Saver	None	£1	2.85% V	Yearly

Tax-free products

	Notice or Term	Min	AER	Interest Paid
Junior Isa	Age 18	£1	3.40%	Yearly
Direct Isa	None	£1	2.15%	Yearly

Personal loans

Fixed monthly repayment on £10,000 for 5 years

Provider	Contact	Rep APR	Amount per month	Total repaid
HSBC	via website	4.8%	£187.33	£11,239.80
M&S Bank	via website	4.9%	£187.76	£11,265.60
AA	via website	5.0%	£188.20	£11,292.00
Bank of Ireland UK	via website	5.0%	£188.20	£11,292.00

Borrowing rates and availability of products are subject to individual credit ratings.

Credit cards

Introductory rate for balance transfers

Provider	Contact	Product name	Transfer	Bal trans fee	Purch APR
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Platinum BT Visa	0% 1st 30 mths	2.98%	23.9%
NatWest	0345 788 8444	Longer BT MC	0% 1st 30 mths	2.99%	23.9%
RBS	0345 724 2424	Longer BT MC	0% 1st 30 mths	2.99%	23.9%
Tesco Bank	0345 300 4278	C'card CC BT MC	0% 1st 30 mths	3.49%	22.9%
Halifax	0345 944 4555	Longest BT MC	0% 1st 29 mths	3.49%	22.9%

Introductory rate for purchases

Provider	Contact	Product name	Introductory Term	Purch APR
NatWest	0345 788 8444	Purchase & BT MC	0% 1st 23 mths	23.9%
RBS	0345 724 2424	Purchase & BT MC	0% 1st 23 mths	23.9%
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Platinum All-Rounder Visa	0% 1st 22 mths	23.9%
HSBC	0345 7404 404	Purchase Plus CC Visa	0% 1st 20 mths	23.9%
M&S Bank	0800 997 996	Shopping Plus Offer MC	0% 1st 18 mths	23.9%

Cashback credit card

Provider	Contact	Product name	Purchase APR	Cashback
American Express	0800 917 8047	Platinum Cashback	35.0% Intro	0.75% - 1.25% standard 5%/3mth (max £125)
American Express	0800 917 8047	Plat Cashback Everyday	29.4% Intro	0.50% - 1.00% standard 5%/3mth (max £100)
Halifax	0345 944 4555	Cashback CC MC	22.9%	Standard 0.25% - 0.50% on spend over £1 a year
Lloyds Bank	0345 602 1997	Cashback CC MC	22.9%	Standard 0.25% - 0.50% on spend over £1 a year
Barclaycard	0800 151 0900	Rewards Visa	25.9%	Standard 0.25% on spend over £1 a year

Borrowing rates and products are subject to credit ratings. Terms apply to all cashback

Current accounts

Credit interest

Provider	Contact	Account name	Account Fee	AER
Halifax	0345 720 3040	Reward Current Account	None	£5 pm C
TSB	0345 975 8758	Spend & Save Plus	£3pm	£5 pm
Nationwide BS	0800 30 20 10	FlexDirect	None	5% A
Kroo Bank Ltd	kroo.com	Current Account	None	3.33%
Virgin Money	0800 678 3654	M Plus Account	None	2.02%

Authorised overdrafts

Provider	Contact	Account name	Account Fee	EAR	Usage Fee
Starling Bank	via website	Current Account	None	15.0%	£0
first direct	0345 600 2424	1st Account	None	39.9%	£250
Virgin Money	0800 678 3654	M Plus Account	None	19.9%	£0
Lloyds Bank	0800 015 4000	Club Lloyds	£3pm	27.5%	£50
TSB	0345 975 8758	Spend & Save Plus	£3pm	39.9%	£100

Current account interest rates paid up to a specified level, terms may apply.

A = Provider operates under Islamic finance principles, rate shown is expected profit rate.
B = Introductory rate. C = Paid net of income tax. D = Discounted variable rate.
F = Fixed rate. V = Variable rate. All savings rates AER variable unless stated otherwise.
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Money Equity prices

Dividend yields Please note that the information in the dividend yields column has been suspended due to technical problems at Morningstar, the provider.
12-month high and low Please note the 12-month high and low figures for shares supplied by Morningstar are based on intra-day figures, not closing prices.

Automobiles & parts

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
297	89½	Aston Martin Lag	204⅝	+ 1⅛	...	-1.2

Banking & finance

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
236	133	Abrdn‡	207¼	– ¾	...	4.5
2361	1729	Admiral‡	2254	+ 20	...	11.4
71⅞	24½	ADVFN♦	24½	...	...	4.2
390	255¼	AJ Bell	317¾	– 4⅜	...	29.7
26967½	19844¾	Aon Corpn	26967½	+ 86½	...	65.8
42⅞	23⅛	Appreciate Group♦	42⅞	...	...	18.3
1002½	645	Arbuthnot Bkg♦‡	952½	– 10	...	21.0
14	9	Argo Group♦	9	...	...	4.1
286⅞	180⅞	Ashmore	236⅞	+ 1	...	8.0
1390½	1123¾	Aus New Z	1306⅞	+ 10⅜	...	10.2
537	373¼	Aviva‡	412⅝	– 1⅝	...	54.3
341½	193⅞	Banco Santander	276½	+ 5	...	6.6
3325	1270	Bank of Georgia	3325	+ 65	...	10.3
189⅝	133⅞	Barclays	153⅞	+ ⅜	...	3.7
¼	...	Blue Star Capital♦	⅛	...	...	3.4
346	277	BP Marsh&Ptnrs♦	312	...	...	8.6
14	6½	Braveheart Inv♦	13¼	...	...	0.3
515	507	Brewin Dolphin	515	+ 1	...	28.1
337	173⅞	Bridgepoint‡	224¾	– ⅛	...	14.0
67	35	Cenkos Secs♦	38	...	...	7.7
325	262½	Chesnara‡	275½	– 1	...	15.3
53	9	City of Lon Gp♦	10	+ 1	...	-0.6
474	343½	City Lon Inv Gp	442	+ 2	...	10.3
1148	858½	Close Bros	901½	– 16½	...	6.7
317	167	CMC Markets	180¾	– 3¼	...	5.5
1041⅛	499⅛	Commerzbk	872⅛	+ 11⅛	...	44.7
1075⅞	662	Deutsche Bk	837½	+ 2⅜	...	9.8
260⅝	135	Direct Line Ins	160⅝	...	...	6.6
58½	57	Downing ONE VCT	57	...	...	7.7
6	...	Drumz♦	5	...	...	...
155⅝	59⅞	EFG-Hermes Hldg	72¼	+ 8	...	4.6
215	122½	EPE Special Opps♦	158½	– ½	...	8.8
1235⅞	814⅝	FBD‡	1128	...	...	5.0
72½	67½	Fiske♦	67½	...	...	12.0
78	59	Frenkel Topping♦	68½	...	...	39.8
840	548	Georgia Capital	831	+ 11	...	2.2
915	682	Gresham House♦‡	795	+ 5	...	31.9
506	320	H&T Group♦	438	– 4	...	14.0
52½	33	Hansard Global	47⅝	– ½	...	16.5
983	740⅜	Hargreaves Lansdown	804	+ ⅜	...	14.3
174⅞	143⅞	Helios Under♦	160	...	...	...
647½	442⅝	HSBC‡	599⅝	+ 6	...	13.1
847½	648	IG Group	706½	– 20½	...	7.2
883	500	Impax♦	835	...	...	27.5
1612	953⅝	Intermed Capital	1287½	+ 12	...	7.3
114	64⅞	IPF	105½	+ ½	...	5.9
171⅛	136	International Public P'ship	144	– ⅜	...	18.5
546⅝	351½	Investec	436⅝	+ 3⅛	...	10.9
330	253	Investment Co	330	+ 5	...	11.8
88	52½	IP Group	53¼	– ⅜	...	2.0
230	94	Jarvis Securities♦	160	+ 5	...	11.5
179½	83⅞	Jupiter Fund Mgmt‡	123	– 2⅛	...	4.5
95¼	55⅞	Just Group‡	89⅞	...	...	...
664	368⅞	Lancashire Holdings‡	616½	+ 9	...	...
284⅞	204	Legal & Gen‡	230⅝	+ 1	...	7.0
...	...	Liberty Group	502⅝	– 2⅝	...	...
1290	704	Liontrust	775½	– 11	...	9.7
55¼	38	Livermore Invs♦	41	...	...	2.6
53⅞	39	Lloyds Banking Gp	45½	– ¼	...	6.3
35	22	LMS Capital	22½	+ ⅜	...	9.7
8582	6738	Lond Stk Ex Gp‡	8554	+ 50	...	87.4
222½	159⅝	M&G	199⅛	– 1⅛	...	62.2
286⅛	204⅜	Man‡	211⅞	+ ¼	...	8.4
29	8	Manx Fin♦	25	...	...	12.6
3	1	Marechale Cap♦	1½	– ⅛	...	0.7
14506½	11526⅜	Marsh McLn	14506½	+ 42½	...	30.2
760	530	Mattioli Woods♦	635	...	...	...
19½	7½	Metal Tiger♦	9	+ ¾	...	3.5
153¾	69	Metro Bank	94⅞	– 1⅛	...	-0.6
1752¾	1387¼	Nat Aust Bk	1408¾	+ 2⅛	...	13.9
309⅞	212⅜	NatWest	261¼	+ 1⅝	...	10.2
341	170⅜	Numis♦	339½	– 1½	...	6.9
587½	375⅜	Onesavings Bank‡	496⅜	+ 3⅜	...	6.6
652	427½	PayPoint	427½	– 2	...	13.4
6½	¾	PCF Group♦	⅞	+ ¼	...	-0.4
684⅛	506⅜	Phoenix	575⅝	– ⅜	...	-6.6
260	136¼	Provident	225	...	...	4.2
1371½	797½	Prudential‡	1156	– 25½	...	18.7
2¼	⅜	Quantum Blockchain♦	1½	– ⅛	...	-8.6
148⅞	80¼	Quilter‡	84⅞	+ ⅝	...	60.6
140¾	57⅞	Randall & Quilter♦	60½	– 1	...	90.1
2220	1570	Rathbone Grp	1914	– 8	...	14.8
1⅛	½	RiverFort Global Opps♦	⅝	...	...	2.0
2020	1370	Rockwood Strategic	2020	...	...	2.9
2480	1905	S & U	2440	+ 40	...	11.5
2	⅜	Sancus Lending Grp♦	¾	...	...	-0.3
56⅞	40⅝	Schroder REIT	43⅞	– ¼	...	4.6
604⅝	358⅞	Schroders	468⅞	...	...	2.1
1304½	920	St James Place‡	1138	– 7	...	21.6
790⅞	519½	Stand Chart	616⅞	– 3⅝	...	13.8
12	7⅝	Starvest♦	7½	...	...	-1.2
29	22½	STM Group♦	24½	...	...	9.4
4083⅛	3198⅜	Sun Life Can	3832½	+ 8⅛	...	9.8
10	5⅛	Tavistock Inv♦	7⅞	...	...	1.2
2590	1158	TBC Bank Group‡	2335	– 15	...	6.8
16⅞	4	Tern♦	4⅛	...	...	3.2
28⅞	15⅞	Time Finance♦	28⅞	...	...	17.5
1245	900	Volvere♦	1200	...	...	...
42	18½	WH Ireland♦	20½	+ 1⅛	...	11.5
31	24	Walker Crips Grp	26	...	...	74.2
3873	2893⅛	Wells Fargo	3017½	– 56⅛	...	8.2
1311⅛	1027	Westpac	1125	– 2⅛	...	15.2
31	21½	Worsley Investors Ltd	29½	...	...	92.1
40948⅛	34778⅜	Zurich Fincl	38192⅝	+ 35⅛	...	14.9

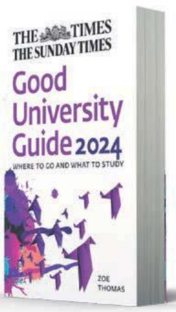
Investment companies

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld %	Dis(-) or Pm
1887	1794	3i Group	1828½	+ 36½	...	10.2
329	325½	3i Infrastructure	326½	– 2¼	...	-3.8
1277	1264	Aberforth Smlr	1264	– 14	...	-12.2
87¾	85½	abrdnDivInc&Grwth	87¾	+ 1⅝	...	-25.2
992	982	Alliance	988	+ 2	...	-5.1
378	374	Asia Dragon Tr	376	...	...	-13.3
199	199	Athelney Trust	195	...	...	-9.8
802	680	AVI Global Trust	706	– 1⅛	...	-10.9
230	227	Baillie Gifford Ch Gr	227	– 3½	...	-9.7
94½	93⅜	BaillieGifford Eu Gr	94	+ ⅜	...	-8.8
761¼	756	Baillie Gifford JpnTr	757	– 1	...	-8.5
148¼	147⅜	Baillie Gifford SN	148	+ ⅜	...	-9.8
167½	166	Baillie Gifford UK Gr	166	– ⅝	...	-12.4
81⅛	79⅛	Bal Comm Prop	79⅛	– 1½	...	-30.3
100	99⅜	Bankers Inv Trst	99⅝	– ¼	...	-9.3
2840	2250	BH Macro	2740	+ 1⅛	...	-2.0
841	833½	Biotech Growth	840	+ 6	...	-10.1
117⅛	113	BlckRck Com Inc	117	+ 1	...	-2.9
137	135½	BlckRck Fro Inv	137	+ ½	...	-5.6
547	543	BlckRck Grt Euro	544	– 2	...	-4.2
191	191	BlckRck Inc & Gwth	190	+ 1	...	-9.8
372	362	BlckRck Latin Am	372	+ 5	...	-13.3
1332	1322	BlckRck Smlr	1328	– 6	...	-8.4
187	184⅛	BlckRck Sustain Amer	186	– ¾	...	-3.0
594	590½	BlckRck Throgmorton	594	...	...	-4.8
627	618	BlckRck Wld Min	622	– 3	...	3.9
63	27½	Blue Plan G&I Uts‡	27½	...	...	-51.0
45¾	31¼	Blue Plan Int Fn	36½	...	...	-13.8
1203½	1185	Brown Adv US sm	1190	+ 2½	...	-13.4
1065	1051	Brunner	1065	+ 10	...	-10.4
3645	3520	Caledonia Inv	3520	– 85	...	-28.8
416½	414	City of Lon Inv	414	...	...	3.5
78½	78	Crystal Amber Fd♦	79	– ⅜	...	-29.8
518	518	CT Priv Eq Ord	518	...	...	-30.3
64	62½	CT Property	63	...	...	-30.9
309	301½	CT UK Cap&Inc	309	– 3	...	-1.5
92	91⅞	CT UK HIT B	90½	+ 1½	...	-4.2
84⅞	82½	CT UK HIT	83⅛	+ 1⅜	...	-10.2
338⅜	328	CT UK HIT UNIT	334	– 4	...	-11.2
568	550	Dunedin Entp	560	+ 15½	...	-10.3
670	666	Edinburgh IT	666	– 2	...	-1.8
149⅞	148⅝	Edin Wwide	149	– 1⅛	...	-18.0
330	326½	EP Global Opp	330	+ 4	...	-9.2
94	93	European Assets	93½	+ ½	...	-8.8
784	775	European Opp Trust	778	– 9⅛	...	-12.1
906	891½	F&C Invest Tr	897	+ 2	...	-0.5
524	514⅞	Fdlty Asian Val	520	...	...	-10.3
230	224½	Fidelity China Sp	224½	– 3	...	-11.0
586½	572	FdltyEmrgMkt	572	– 9⅛	...	-12.4
359	355½	Fidelity European Trust	356	– ½	...	-4.6
176½	170	Fidlty Jap Tru	176½	– 3½	...	-10.2
286	282½	Fidlty Spec Val	282½	– 1½	...	-3.4
915	899	Fins Gwth & Inc	901	– 11	...	-4.4
91	90½	GCP Infrastructure	90½	– 1	...	-17.8
35	34⅛	Gldn Prosp Prc Mtl	34½	– ⅜	...	-11.4
159½	157	Greencoat UK Wind	158⅜	– ½	...	-4.7
180	168	Hansa Investment	168	– 7	...	-42.4
171	171	Hansa Inv Co 'A'	169½	+ ½	...	-44.2
2145	2100	Hbrvest Glbl Pt Eq	2130	– 15	...	-47.1
1370	1102⅜	Hend Euro Foc	1235	+ ⅞	...	-11.7
175	171	Hend High Inc	175	+ 1	...	0.7
811½	804	Hend Smlr	807	– 7	...	-10.8
1726	1713⅛	Herald	1720	+ 2	...	-14.3
365½	355	HgCapital Trust	363⅞	+ 4⅜	...	-23.8
155½	153½	HICL Infra	153½	– ½	...	-6.3
...	...	Highbridge Tactical	...	...	...	...
1104	1092	ICG Ent Tr	1094	– 4⅛	...	-44.1
411	405½	Impax Env Mkts	411	+ 1⅛	...	-3.9
323	319½	Invesco Asian Tr	321	...	...	-11.9
162	159	Invesco Bond Inc	162	+ 3¼	...	1.5
128⅛	128⅛	IPST Bal	132	– 5	...	-12.1
237⅝	224⅛	IPST Gbl Eq	231	+ 6⅛	...	-13.0
94	94	IPST Managed	91	...	...	-13.8
164	158½	IPST UK Eq	161	– 2⅛	...	-8.1
427	427	IP UKSmallerCos	427	+ 8	...	-13.5
717	708	JPM American	711	– 2	...	-2.6
348	346	JPM Asia Gro & Inc	347	...	...	-8.9
280	272½	JPM China	272½	– 5	...	-10.6
680	678	JPM Claverhs	680	+ 4	...	-1.4
106	99	JPM Elect Mg C	101½	...	...	-0.3
929⅛	780	JPM Elect Mg G	832½	– 1⅛	...	-0.4
114	89	JPM Elect Mg I	98½	– 1⅛	...	-5.3
804	514	JPMorgan Emerg E, ME & Africa	648	– 1⅜	...	-12.2
105⅜	101⅜	JPM Em Mkts	101⅜	– 1	...	-10.2
418⅛	415⅛	JPM Euro disc	416	– 4	...	-12.9
305	251	JPM Eur IT Gth	269	+ ⅛	...	-17.2
166	138⅛	JPM Eur IT Inc	147	+ 1½	...	-13.7
129	128	JPM GEMI	128	– ½	...	-8.0
459⅛	454⅛	JPM GG&I	455⅛	+ ⅞	...	2.3
798	790	JPM Indian	794	– 2	...	-18.9
318	313⅛	JPM Jap Sml Co	318	+ 5	...	-12.6
475	467	JPM Japan	472	+ 2	...	-7.9
904	900	JPM Mid Cap	904	+ 4	...	-12.0
94½	92	JPM Multi-asset G&I	94½	...	...	-5.3
276	276	JPM Smllr Co	276	– ½	...	-11.4
206½	205	Keystone Positive Change Inv plc	205½	– 1	...	-15.0
818	811	Law Debenture	815	...	...	5.4
1489⅛	1151	Lowland	1275	– 1½	...	-7.7
212⅞	210	Majedie	212	– 1¼	...	-8.6
351	345	M Currie Port	349	+ ⅜	...	0.5
91½	91⅛	Marwyn Val In	92½	...	...	-44.0
203⅜	202	Mercantile IT	202½	+ ½	...	-11.9
571	566	Merchants	567	...	...	2.1
692	682⅞	Mid Wynd	687	+ 2	...	-0.4
984	974⅜	Monks Inv Tst	976	– 9	...	-6.8
142	138⅜	Montanaro Eur Sml	142	+ 2	...	-12.0
874	868	Murray Income Trust	871	+ 2	...	-5.5
1299½	1006	Murray Int	1080	– 1	...	-1.2
93⅜	82⅜	Nb Global Floating	88	– 1⅛	...	-9.6
356	353	Pacific Assets	356	...	...	-4.7
2620	2000	Pantheon Int	2250	– ⅛	...	-18.7
...	...	Pershing Sq	...	...	...	...
44050	39750	Personal Assets	43000	– ⅛	...	-1.5
2015	1991⅛	Polar Cap Tech	2005	– 10	...	-13.4
148½	142⅜	Prem Glb & Inf	145½	– 2½	...	-14.7
125⅛	123⅛	Renewables Inf	123⅛	– 2⅛	...	-4.3
1998	1962	RIT Cap Ptnr	1966	– 22	...	-15.9
554⅝	550	Riverstone	550	+ 8	...	-52.7
415	408⅞	Schroder TotRt	413	+ 4	...	-4.6
487	485	Schrd Asia Pac	486	– 2	...	-10.0
309	300	Schrod Inc Gwth	308	+ 3⅛	...	-0.3
216	212	Schrod Jap Gwth	216	...	...	-10.5
565⅛	558	Schrod UKMid	560	– 2	...	-9.4
14½	14	Schroder UK PP Tr	14½	...	...	-43.4
536	531⅛	Scot American	534	+ 1	...	4.5
847	604	Scot IT‡	740	...	...	-13.0
633⅛	618⅛	Scot Mtge	621	– 5½	...	-16.3
221	221	Secs Tst Scot	221	+ 1	...	0.1
83½	81⅛	Sequoia Eco	81⅛	– ⅜	...	-10.4
1495½	1136	Temple Bar	1184	– 3⅜	...	-0.6
146	142⅛	Tplton Emg Mkt	144	– ½	...	-10.9
142½	141⅛	The Glbl Smaller	142⅛	– 1⅛	...	-10.7
⅛	⅛	Tiger Royal and Inv♦	⅛	...	...	45.8
289½	284	TR Property	284	– 6½	...	-4.6
72⅛	71⅜	Troy Inc&Gth	72⅛	+ ⅛	...	-1.2
146⅛	142⅛	Utilico Ord	145½	+ ⅝	...	-31.3
226	222½	Utilico Emerging Mkt	224	– 1	...	-11.4
134½	123	UtiliFin RdZDP 2022	132½	...	...	5.9
546	543	Vietnam Ent Inv	543	+ 1	...	-17.7
229⅛	228	Witan	228	– ½	...	-5.9
3304⅜	3265	Ww Health	3290	+ 5	...	-9.2

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Construction & property

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
189	133	Alumasc♦	161½	...	...	8.2
14⅛	8⅛	Aseana Props	9⅛	...	...	-4.6
71⅝	47⅜	Assura	50⅝	...	...	10.1
2⅛	1½	Aukett Swanke♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.1
393⅜	240⅜	Balfour Beatty	391⅛	+ 1	...	18.5
514	323⅜	Barratt Devs‡	500⅜	+ 4⅜	...	7.8
2464	1586½	Bellway	2444	+ 42	...	7.3
4504	3165	Berkeley	4353	+ 24	...	11.3
1426	987	Big Yellow Group	1159	– 19	...	7.6
455	181½	Billington Hldgs♦	440	...	...	35.7
345	218	Boot (Henry)‡	238	+ 2	...	12.7
536	324⅜	Br Land	371	– 10⅝	...	50.8
167½	120	Caledonian Tst♦	150	...	...	29.9
64¾	43⅞	Cap & Regnl‡	57	+ 2	...	-0.5
2550	2310	Cardiff Prop	2370	...	...	25.7
25	2½	Carecapital♦	6½	...	...	-0.7
170	106	Clarke T‡	150½	+ 3¾	...	10.8
291⅜	191⅝	Countryside Partner	229¾	+ 14	...	16.7
27⅞	5⅞	Craven House♦	13⅝	...	...	-0.2
4353	2756½	CRH	3937	– 12	...	16.3
3044	1876	Derwent London‡	2170	– 102	...	9.6
4	3	Dolphin Capital♦	3¼	...	...	-2.6
33	22	First Prop♦	28	...	...	...
47½	37½	Fletcher King♦	37½	...	...	...
44	27¼	Foxtons Group‡	39½	+ ½	...	...
185⅛	145	Galliford Try	179⅞	– 1	...	39.8
470	252⅞	Genuit Group‡	296	– 4½	...	17.9
600	335	Gleeson (MJ)	444	+ 15	...	6.9
988⅝	630½	Grafton	847½	+ 2⅝	...	9.8
312⅜	205⅜	Grainger	247½	– 6⅛	...	15.3
674	409⅜	Great Portland	488⅝	– 23	...	-6.1
30½	17½	Hammerson	25¼	– ⅛	...	-2.7
171	101	Harworth Gp‡	120	– 5	...	4.1
630	425	Heath (Samuel)♦	425	...	...	8.8
442	275½	Helical PLC	275½	– 14½	...	6.6
1065	865	Highcroft Invs‡	865	...	...	3.7
208⅛	148⅞	Ibstock‡	165	– 2	...	21.4
234	176	James Halstead♦‡	215	+ 9	...	22.9
849	591	Keller	635	– 5	...	7.3
6802¼	3912⅝	Kingspan Group	5544¼	+ 56½	...	21.7
774½	485¼	Land Sec	614⅝	– 11½	...	...
102½	58	Life Science Reit‡	71	– ⅜	...	...
25	13	Lon & Assoc	14	...	...	-1.9
261	161⅜	Londonmetric Property	186½	– 2½	...	3.9
61⅜	37	Macau Prop Op	59⅛	+ ¼	...	-7.7
545½	225⅜	Marshalls	289⅜	+ 2½	...	10.5
118	74	Michelmersh♦	92½	...	...	14.7
2120	1392	Morgan Sindall‡	1816	+ 16	...	8.8
13900	10800	Mountview	11200	+ 100	...	13.9
99½	68⅛	NewRiver REIT	82⅛	– ½	...	-2.9
291	195	Palace Capital	236	+ 4	...	11.2
335	260	Panther Securities♦	300	...	...	2.7
2254	1138½	Persimmon	1337½	+ 33½	...	5.4
5½	2⅛	Pires Investments♦	2⅛	...	...	-4.7
65	30	Plaza Cent	30	...	...	...
148½	98⅞	Primary Health Properties	104⅛	– ½	...	10.6
39	28⅜	Real Estate Invs♦	30½	+ ½	...	3.9
585	372½	Redrow	528	+ 15	...	6.5
1177	794	Safestore	930	– 17	...	5.2
1190	763⅜	Savills‡	934½	+ 7	...	9.3
6⅛	5⅜	Secure Property♦	5⅝	...	...	14.8
1129	694	Segro	804	– 5⅜	...	2.3
44⅜	27⅜	SIG	43	+ ⅛	...	...
69	37⅜	SigmaRoc♦	62⅛	– ⅜	...	...
116½	66⅛	Sirius Real Estate	78¼	– 1	...	6.1
173½	160⅜	Smart (J)‡	164½	...	...	4.5
50	29⅛	Steppe Cement♦	37	– 1	...	8.5
132⅜	85	Taylor Wimpey‡	124⅝	+ 1	...	8.2
178½	129	Town Centre	147	+ 8	...	5.8
1223½	738	Travis Perkins‡	927½	– 1⅛	...	9.0
204¾	125⅞	Tritax Big Box Reit‡	145⅞	– 1⅛	...	2.6
98¼	57	Tritax Eurobox	65¾	+ ⅜	...	...
306½	184¾	Tyman‡	255½	+ 2½	...	10.1
1207	791¾	Unite‡	912	– 14	...	10.6
938½	519¼	Vistry Group‡	787	+ 14	...	6.9
166	91	Warehouse REIT	102⅝	– 1⅜	...	2.4
722	343⅞	Workspace Grp	464⅞	– 9	...	-6.9
755	622½	Wynnstay Props♦	630	...	...	4.5

Consumer goods

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5⅜	1	Agriterra♦	1⅛	+ ⅛	...	-0.1
39½	25½	Airea♦‡	34	...	...	12.5
952	740	Anglo-Eastern	866	...	...	7.9
306	147½	Animalcare♦	194	+ 4	...	...
2070	1237	AB Foods	1915½	+ 7½	...	31.6
121	79	Bakkavor Group‡	91⅞	– 1½	...	9.5
569	432	Barr (AG)‡	511	– 3	...	18.1
3⅞	1⅛	Bidstack Group♦	1⅝	...	...	-1.4
68	24⅛	Brand Architekts♦	32⅛	...	...	-1.4
3628	2709	Brit Amer Tob	2709	– 18½	...	9.1
936	707½	Britvic	933	+ 8	...	21.1
2641	1542½	Burberry	2516	– 8	...	21.6
212½	140⅜	C&C Grp	153½	– 1⅜	...	-9.1
7⅛	2⅛	Capital Metals♦	4⅛	...	...	-1.1
145	92	Carr's Grp‡	133	+ 3½	...	16.4
575	330	Character Grp♦	330	– 15	...	5.8
1640	1070	Churchill China♦	1560	...	...	...
2561	1674	Coca Cola HBC	2561	+ 15	...	20.4
880	610	Colefax♦	752½	...	...	13.3
3340	2586	Cranswick	3144	– 42	...	16.6
329	164	Devro	329	...	...	17.8
3960	3410½	Diageo	3534½	– 85	...	27.1
1⅜	⅜	Distil♦	½	...	...	13.7
1000	784	Evans (M.P.)♦‡	832	+ 8	...	7.1
103½	67	Finsbury Food♦	93	...	...	11.0
9920	5690	Games Workshop‡	9830	– 30	...	27.0
1231⅝	846⅛	Glanbia	1231⅝	+ 15⅝	...	30.3
114½	60⅛	Greencore	83½	+ 1⅛	...	16.7
355	231	Headlam‡	283	– 4	...	12.2
1218	500	Hilton Food	721	– 15	...	15.0
31½	22	Hornby♦	23½	...	...	...
2185	1668½	Imperial Brands	1885	+ 3½	...	6.3
1½	1⅛	J Lewis Hford♦	1⅛	...	...	7.9
9481½	7273	Kerry Gp‡	8153	+ 4⅛	...	22.5
36⅛	15⅛	McBride	31⅛	+ ⅝	...	-5.6
305	205	Mulberry Group♦	240	...	...	9.9
1460	986½	Nichols♦	1040	+ 5	...	...
255	165	Norcros	178	+ 2	...	5.6
381⅜	296⅞	Origin Ents♦	335¼	...	...	10.5
14½	⅛	Pittards♦	7	– 2⅜	...	3.3
512½	300	Portmeirion♦‡	488	– 7	...	20.7
1	⅜	Provexis♦	⅝	...	...	0.3
221	170½	PZ Cussons	196⅛	– ¾	...	22.6
164	92½	REA	97	...	...	-7.6
2⅜	1	Real Gd Fd♦	1⅛	...	...	0.1
350	235	Tandem♦‡	240	...	...	3.4
904	507	Treatt	707	– 8	...	28.3
3¼	1⅜	Ukrproduct Gp♦	2¼	...	...	-1.5
5051	4076½	Unilever (NV)	4995	+ 18	...	25.6
4443½	3451½	Unilever	4353½	+ 14	...	22.3
660	317	Victoria♦	522	+ 5	...	...

Engineering

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
...	...	Ass Br Eng‡	15	...	...	-3.5
1222	739	Avon Rubber	966	+ 27	...	...
367½	268⅜	Babcock	312	– 1⅜	...	-1.9
1032	714	BAE	988	+ 6	...	18.0
2150	1350	Braime A N/V♦‡	1350	– 50	...	15.2
1750	1480	Braime Group♦‡	1750	+ 100	...	19.7
602½	500	Caffyns	550	...	...	7.9
5	1⅜	Cap XX Ld♦	1¼	...	...	-2.8
380	279	Castings	374	+ 2	...	18.0
5	3⅛	Chamberlin♦	3⅝	...	...	-0.2
36	14	Checkit♦	27	– 1	...	-3.2
560	391	Cohort♦	500½	+ 2	...	44.4
400	181½	Crestchic Plc♦	399	...	...	...
1390	1020⅝	Dewhurst♦	1075	...	...	12.3
359½	192⅞	Dialight	228	+ 7	...	...
1342⅞	886⅞	Electrolux 'B'	1279⅝	+ 4⅛	...	9.6
182½	85⅝	Feedback♦	127½	...	...	...
940	426	Gooch Hsego♦	568	+ 2	...	42.0
4370	2400	Goodwin	4370	– 20	...	24.1
2443	1876½	Halma	2443	+ 10	...	35.3
1448	893	Hill & Smith	1324	– 4	...	31.1
121½	71½	Holders Tech♦	76	...	...	4.6
2¼	¾	Image Scan♦	2⅛	...	...	12.9
1674	1071	IMI‡	1602	+ 5	...	21.8
...	...	Inspirit Energy♦	...	...	...	...
10025	6740	Judges Scientific♦	9740	+ 40	...	49.1
85½	71½	LPA♦	80	...	...	...
798¾	768⅞	Meggitt	798¾	+ ⅛	...	...
510⅝	286½	Melrose	461½	+ 3⅛	...	...
325	217	Morgan Advanced	287	+ 3⅛	...	12.1
435	227½	Mpac♦	232½	– 2½	...	6.1
745	260	MS Intl♦	490	...	...	70.0
2855	1720	Oxford Inst	2835	– 10	...	38.7
2121¼	1057⅝	Philips El nv	1643¼	– 8⅛	...	29.2
18½	12⅝	PipeHawk♦	12½	...	...	26.6
92½	23⅝	Pressure Tech♦‡	44½	+ ½	...	-3.7
4338	3342	Renishaw	3698	– 32	...	21.1
31	20½	Renold♦	31	+ 1	...	11.0
158	66⅝	Rolls-Royce	148¼	+ 2⅜	...	...
1⅜	⅝	Ross Gp	⅝	...	...	-1.6
336⅝	229½	Rotork‡	328⅝	+ 1⅜	...	35.7
200	144	SDI Group♦	150	...	...	24.7
173¾	111	Senior‡	173¼	+ 2	...	30.2
67	48	Severfield	65	...	...	11.6
15½	8	Six Hundred♦	8⅛	...	...	50.4
1669⅞	1124⅜	SKF B	1380⅞	+ 18½	...	10.2
300	200	Slingsby (HC)♦	300	...	...	4.9
1797½	1364	Smiths‡	1661½	+ 9	...	26.4
1435	986	Solid State♦	1125	– 50	...	27.1
470	324	Somero Enter♦	335	...	...	7.4
3841	2690	Spectris	3817	– 2	...	12.5
12350	9130	Spirax-Sarco‡	11070	– 45	...	34.8
57½	28½	Surface Trsfms♦	37½	+ 2	...	...
3½	1⅞	Tanfield♦	3¼	...	...	-9.0
445	345	Thorpe FW♦	360	+ 6	...	25.0
2⅝	⅝	TP Group♦	2⅛	...	...	-3.3
95½	48½	Transense Tech♦	84	...	...	61.7
3500	3070	Ultra Electrncs	3500	+ 6	...	37.4
435	284½	Vesuvius‡	407	– 2⅛	...	10.8
1530	713	Videndum‡	722	– 9	...	13.2
323½	202	Volex♦	272½	– 4½	...	14.8
2021	1328½	Weir‡	1784	– 3½	...	30.1
3435	1464	XP Power	2225	– 5	...	11.8
182½	98	Zytronic♦	100½	...	...	33.5

Health

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1454	1058	Abcam♦	1226	+ 123	...	...
316	219½	AdvancedMedical♦	245½	+ 4	...	38.6
22	5	Allergy Therap♦‡	6¼	+ 1⅛	...	-7.3
156	16½	Angle♦	20⅝	– ¼	...	-2.8
603	185	Anpario♦	217½	– 2½	...	11.4
12294	9656	AstraZeneca	12010	+ 86	...	...
37¼	29	Circassia Group♦	34	...	...	34.0
248½	199	Convatec‡	222	+ 3⅞	...	51.8
59	25⅞	Creighton	35	...	...	6.7
3810	2520	Dechra Pharma	3738	– 16	...	55.8
1½	¾	Deltex Medical♦	1½	...	...	-9.1
23¼	10½	e-Therapeutics♦	12⅝	...	...	...
130	82½	Eco Animal Hlth♦	121	+ ½	...	14.6
51	25½	EKF Diagnostics♦	25½	– ⅜	...	7.2
56⅞	26⅜	Futura Medical♦	42⅝	– 1⅛	...	...
3272	2298	Genus	2590	– 14	...	46.0
1820⅝	1296	GSK	1470⅛	+ 25⅛	...	16.9
⅝	¼	Gunsynd♦	⅜	...	...	3.6
353½	246⅝	Haleon	343	+ ⅛	...	...
1874	1190½	Hikma Pharms	1852½	– 3½	...	13.8
335	134½	Hutchmed China♦	227	– 7	...	...
...	...	Immunodiag Sys♦	378	...	...	...
6⅞	1½	ImmuPharma♦	2½	...	...	-0.8
7025	1365	Indivior	1486	– 39	...	85.0
105	44½	Inspiration Health♦	44⅝	+ ½	...	6.9
41½	18⅞	IXICO♦	19½	+ ¾	...	6.2
501½	350	Mediclinic	493¾	– 2	...	30.8

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
3½	1½	N4 Pharma♦	1¾	...	...	-2.1
8367¼	6605⅝	Novartis	8272¼	-4⅜	...	10.5
4	2¼	Omega Diags♦	2½	...	...	-0.9
11½	4¾	Ovoca Bio♦	6¾	+¾	...	-1.9
562	297	Oxford Biomedica	407½	-½	...	18.3
5	2	Physiomics♦	2¾	-⅛	...	...
5	3¼	Proteome Scies♦	4⅝	+¼	...	...
6808	5556	**Reckitt Benckiser**‡	6490	+36	...	...
63½	31⅜	RUA Life Sciences♦	41	-½	...	-3.9
230	70	Sareum Hldgs♦	127½	-5	...	...
1321½	984½	**Smith & Neph**‡	1276	-½	...	28.9
250	203	Spire Hcare	239½	...	...	...
35	7⅜	Synairgen♦	9¾	+1⅜	...	-0.4
70	42	Tissue Regenix♦	57	-1	...	...
46½	15½	Totally♦	21½	+⅛	...	34.2
420	295	Tristel♦	332½	...	...	68.5
27½	8⅞	ValiRx♦	10	...	...	...

Industrials

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
135	54⅜	Accsys Tech♦	64½	-1⅛	...	...
4711½	3387⅛	BASF	4102⅝	-¾	...	8.0
5818¾	4133⅞	Bayer DM50	4680⅛	-18¼	...	54.6
205	46½	Biome Tech♦	122½	...	...	-4.0
3⅝	1½	Byotrol♦	1⅝	...	...	...
7	6¾	Camb Gbl Timber♦	6¾	...	...	-9.0
79	50⅞	Coats Grp‡	73⅝	+1⅛	...	16.4
7482	5908	**Croda**‡	6794	-58	...	29.6
1125	575	Cropper (James)♦	750	+15	...	22.8
129	87⅝	Elementis	118⅜	-1¾	...	...
29	11	Hardide♦	13½	...	...	-2.6
2373	1784	**Johnson Math**	1941½	-½	...	24.4
1705	1242	**Mondi**‡	1281	-17½	...	9.7
100	77½	Robinson♦	93½	...	...	...
368½	241¾	**DS Smith**	313½	-3⅛	...	17.8
735¾	440¼	Swire Pacific	595½	-8⅛	...	...
19	7¾	Symph Environ♦	7¾	...	...	...
332¾	88	Synthomer	110⅞	-1¼	...	2.3
2749⅞	2099⅞	Takeda Pharm	2636⅝	-68¾	...	14.7
7	3	Velocys♦	3½	-⅛	...	-4.5
1931	1504	Victrex	1520	+8	...	18.1
651	430	Wynnstay Group♦	430	-10	...	9.8
410	233	Zotefoams‡	380	-7½	...	22.8

Leisure

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
210⅜	51⅝	888 Hldgs	82	-1⅜	...	6.0
846	542	Accesso Tech♦	715	-9	...	18.8
680	370	Best of the Best♦	550	...	...	6.1
1080	501⅜	Carnival	700¾	-23	...	-1.1
135	108	Celtic♦	127½	...	...	12.6
28¼	¾	Cineworld	⅞	...	...	...
339	215⅛	Domino's Pizza	302⅜	+⅜	...	15.4
1587½	1075½	**Entain**	1466	-7½	...	32.8
16040	7614	**Flutter Ent**	15920	-55	...	...
32¾	22	Gaming Realms♦	32⅛	+¼	...	...
290	290	Heavitree♦	290	...	...	17.4
185	65	Heavitree A♦	110	...	...	6.6
145	120	Hermes Pacific♦	120	...	...	...
5784	4193	**InterContinental Hotels**‡	5266	-60	...	49.3
1¼	¾	Minoan Gp♦	1⅛	...	...	-7.9
215¾	102	Mitch & Butlers	196½	+3⅜	...	...
240½	92½	On The Beach	122¾	-3¾	...	-6.4
1600	1020	PPHE Hotels‡	1080	-15	...	-8.7
112	52⅜	Rank Grp	100⅛	+1	...	13.5
56½	26⅝	Restaurant Gp	50½	+⅛	...	-9.5
50½	30½	Rotala♦	46	+2	...	...
25	15½	Sportech♦	18¼	-⅝	...	...
277⅞	184¾	SSP	258½	-2⅛	...	-5.0
5¾	1⅞	Tasty♦	3¼	+½	...	4.3
295	65	Tintra♦	90	...	...	-1.5
704⅜	290⅝	Tui	510¾	-15½	...	-5.3
3⅛	1⅛	Webis Holdings♦	1⅜	...	...	...
783½	389¾	Wetherspoon JD	758	-21	...	-7.0
3281	2285	**Whitbread**	3210	-36	...	...
1340	870	Young & Co - A♦	1195	+10	...	...
835	564	Young & Co - N/V♦	750	-6	...	...

Media

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
⅝	⅛	7digital Gp♦	⅝	...	...	-5.7
88	52½	Aeorema Comms♦	81½	+½	...	22.5
48	20½	Altitude Group♦	44½	...	...	...
85½	70½	Arcontech Grp♦	72½	...	...	10.0
315½	176⅛	Ascential	239⅛	-2⅜	...	...
675	486⅛	**Auto Trader**	631	-1¾	...	31.1
492	366	Bloomsbury Pub	435½	+2	...	17.9
8	3¼	Bonhill Group♦	5	+¼	...	...
172½	71	Catalyst Media♦	140	...	...	...
¼	⅛	Catenae♦	⅛	...	...	-0.2
...	...	Daily Mail‡	270	-2½	...	10.3
150	100	DCD Media♦#	100	-30	...	5.0
64½	43	Ebiquity♦	48	...	...	...
1466	965	Euromoney In Inv	1460	+2	...	...
2060	1030	Future	1030	-17	...	17.7
1400	930	GlobalData♦	1305	...	...	64.6
120¾	50	Hyve Group	120½	+⅛	...	...
196	46½	IG Design Grp♦	161½	+2½	...	23.6
722½	501¾	**Informa**	699½	-2¾	...	...
90	55⅛	ITV‡	74½	-1	...	8.0
10¼	4⅛	Jaywing♦	4⅝	...	...	...
9⅜	1¾	Live Company Gp♦	1¾	...	...	-0.3
...	...	Mediazest♦	...	...	...	-5.5
47	26½	Merit Grp♦	45½	-1	...	...
52½	19	Mirada♦	19	...	...	-0.8
68½	42	Mission Group♦	51	+½	...	8.6
280⅜	167	Moneysupermarket	266½	-2⅜	...	27.2
1714½	1193¾	News Corp A	1414⅛	+71¾	...	23.0
1730⅜	1219⅜	News Corp B	1422⅛	+72½	...	23.2
1326	755	Next 15 Comms♦	799	-25	...	...
995⅛	734½	**Pearson**	822¾	+11¾	...	39.3
107	65⅛	Photo-Me	107	+5	...	18.6
4⅜	2	Primorus Inv♦	3⅛	...	...	5.7
187½	108½	Quarto	166	...	...	9.2
125	67	Reach‡	76⅛	-1⅝	...	84.6
1¼	¾	REACT Grp♦	1¼	...	...	18.9
2722	2081	**Relx**‡	2491	-5	...	32.8
663	445⅜	**Rightmove**‡	560⅛	-6½	...	31.7
140	65	SpaceandPeople♦	92½	-1½	...	...
315	245	STV Group‡	252	...	...	6.1
310	122½	System1 Group♦	210	...	...	10.0
2964¼	2249½	21st Cent Fox Inc A	2431¼	-28	...	13.3
2743¾	2121¾	21st Cent Fox Inc B	2237¼	-20¾	...	12.2
...	...	Vela Tech♦	...	...	...	6.3
356	222	Wilmington	272	-2	...	17.3
1051½	725¾	**WPP**	895⅛	+4½	...	17.0
117½	77½	Zinc Media♦	109	-3	...	-6.9

Natural resources

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
1	⅜	ADM Energy♦	¾	...	...	-0.1
⅛	...	Advance Energy♦#	⅛	...	...	-0.1
33⅞	17¾	AFC Energy♦	18¼	...	...	...
...	...	Afentra PLC	...	...	...	...
⅛	...	Alba Mineral Res♦	...	...	...	-2.0
¾	⅜	Alien Metals♦	⅜	...	...	...
91½	65	Alumina	77⅞	-¼	...	16.2
1¼	⅝	Aminex	1	...	...	-6.4
1¾	⅝	Amur Mins Corp♦	1⅝	...	...	...
727114½	4757	Anglo Amer Plat	4757	+210⅝	...	3.4
4017½	2337½	**Anglo American**	2337½	-10	...	4.6
121	64	Anglo Asian Mng♦	114	+6	...	9.8
1805	991½	**Antofagasta**‡	1397	+15	...	14.4
4⅞	2⅞	Arc Minerals♦	3½	...	...	2.5
3⅞	2½	Ariana Res♦	2⅝	...	...	3.5
¾	⅜	Arkle Resources♦	⅜	...	...	-1.4
3⅝	1¼	Armadale Cap♦	1¼	...	...	...
2	⅞	Asiamet Rsrcs♦	⅞	...	...	...
402½	188	Atalaya Mine♦	336	+5	...	4.2
¼	...	Baron Oil♦	...	...	...	...
6	1⅞	Beowulf Mining♦	2	...	...	-8.7
⅛	...	Bezant Res♦	...	...	...	-0.8
2855	2034	BHP Group	2334	+21½	...	10.2
5½	1¾	Border & Sthn Pet♦	2⅝	...	...	...
21⅞	13⅞	Bougainville	20	+¼	...	...
4¾	1	BowLeven♦	1	...	...	-1.3
567½	363⅞	**BP**‡	483	+5¼	...	17.5
16⅝	8¾	Cadence Min♦	9⅞	-¼	...	0.9
3½	1⅝	Cadogan Petrol	1⅝	-¼	...	23.6
1350	825	Caledonia Mining♦	1070	-25	...	10.4
261¾	196½	Capricorn Energy	211⅜	-3½	...	1.6
8⅜	2¼	Caspian Sunrise♦	6⅛	...	...	...
125½	74⅜	Centamin	108⅜	+1½	...	16.8
292½	202	Cent Asia Metals♦‡	204	+1½	...	5.9
16½	7⅜	Chaarat Gold♦	9½	...	...	...
23	13½	Chariot Oil & Gas♦	16⅜	...	...	...
6	1¼	China Nonferr Gold♦	1¾	...	...	...
½	...	Clontarf Energy♦	...	...	...	-2.2
35¾	15¼	Condor Gld♦	31	-1½	...	...
1⅜	⅛	Corcel♦	¼	...	...	-0.3
10256¼	97⅞	DRD Gold	97⅞	-¾	...	11.5
1¼	½	ECR Minerals♦	½	...	...	-3.4
21	4¾	Edenville Energy♦	4¾	...	...	-0.3
1½	⅝	Empyrean Energy♦	1⅛	...	...	-8.5
2184	1461	**Endeavour**	2052	+14	...	30.5
35¾	15⅝	EnQuest	15¾	...	...	1.0
8½	2½	Eurasia Mining♦	2⅞	+⅛	...	...
3	⅞	Europa Oil&Gas♦	1	...	...	9.5
193⅛	97½	Ferrexpo	104⅝	-5⅝	...	0.8
968	644	**Fresnillo**‡	681⅛	-9⅞	...	16.1
...	...	G3 Exploration#	28	...	...	-2.6
39	19	Galantas Gold♦	19	...	...	-3.2
7¼	2¾	GCM Resources♦	2¾	...	...	-2.2
61¾	24⅜	Gem Diamonds	24⅜	-1	...	2.5
31½	12⅛	Getech♦	15⅛	...	...	-3.6
578	400	**Glencore**‡	432¼	+4⅝	...	15.8
½	⅛	Global Petrol♦	⅛	...	...	-2.7
134829⅜	1258⅛	Gold Fields	1258⅛	-9½	...	19.3
12½	7¼	Goldplat♦	8½	-¼	...	6.4
8¼	2½	Goldstone Res♦	3⅝	...	...	...
13¼	6¾	Greatld Gld♦	8½	-¼	...	...
99¾	70	Griffin Mining♦	90½	-2	...	9.9
310	129⅝	Gulf Keystone	148⅛	+14⅜	...	9.2
25⅞	5⅝	Harland & Wolff Gp♦	16⅛	-⅛	...	1.3
115¼	51½	Hochschild	81	+⅝	...	7.8
168	85	Horizonte Minrls♦	140	-1	...	...
356½	187½	Hunting PLC‡	212½	+½	...	-5.4
106½	15¾	IGas Energy♦	16¼	-1	...	-0.8
⅜	...	Independ Res♦	...	...	...	...
317	195	Indus Gas♦	195	...	...	20.2
¾	¼	Ironveld♦	¼	...	...	-5.0
318⅜	69⅜	ITM Power♦	75⅛	-⅛	...	...
15½	7⅛	Jubilee Metals♦	8	...	...	6.7
3	1⅝	Karel Diamd Res♦	2⅝	...	...	...
1	½	KEFI Gold and Copper♦	⅞	...	...	-3.7
495	380½	Kenmare Res‡	448	-3	...	5.2
27⅞	5¾	Lamprell#	8⅞	...	...	-0.7
23½	11¾	Landore Res♦	11¾	...	...	-2.6
½	⅜	Lansdowne O&G♦	⅜	...	...	...
16	12½	Leeds Group♦	12½	...	...	-2.0
8½	1⅞	Lexington Gold♦	8½	+¼	...	...
21½	3⅛	MC Mining♦	10¼	+½	...	-2.1
2¼	¾	Metals Explorn♦	1¾	...	...	3.1
⅝	⅛	Nostra Terra♦	⅛	...	...	-1.3
26½	⅛	Nostrum O&G#	10	+¼	...	...
...	...	Oil Search	218⅞	-5⅜	...	60.3
⅛	⅛	Oilex♦#	⅛	...	...	-3.7
¼	...	Oriole Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-2.2
⅞	½	Ormonde Mining♦#	¾	...	...	-3.1
17⅛	4⅝	Orosur Mining♦	4⅝	...	...	-7.0
22¼	12¾	Pan African Res♦	18	-⅜	...	5.8
140¼	17¾	Pantheon Res♦	17¾	-¾	...	...
79	22	Parkmead Grp♦	22	...	...	-1.9
⅝	⅜	Pathfinder Mins♦	½	...	...	-4.5
120	66⅞	Petra Diamonds	67⅜	-⅜	...	2.2
3¾	1¼	Petrel Resources♦	1⅜	...	...	-7.1
7	1⅝	Petro Matad♦	7	+½	...	...
157⅞	46	Petrofac	70	+1¾	...	-1.8
1⅛	...	Petroneft Res♦	...	...	...	-0.3
2½	⅞	Petropavlovsk#	1⅛	-⅛	...	1.6
7½	3¾	Phoenix Global♦	6½	+¼	...	-1.6
4½	1⅝	Plexus Holdings♦	2⅞	-⅛	...	-0.7
350	168	Polymetal Intl	250	+25	...	...
698	499	Porvair‡	660	+25	...	25.3
19¼	3¾	Prospex Energy♦	9	-¼	...	...
14⅝	8½	Proton Motor Power S♦	10¾	...	...	-1.9
4	1¾	Providence Res♦	3¼	...	...	29.0
2¾	1	Quadrise Fuels Intl♦	1½	-⅛	...	-5.8
27¼	2	Rambler Met&Min♦#	5⅜	...	...	0.1
⅜	⅛	Reabold Resources♦	⅛	...	...	-3.3
⅝	⅛	Red Rock Res♦	⅛	...	...	-0.8
6874	4698¼	Rio Tinto Ltd	5759⅛	-56	...	6.0
6377	4486	**Rio Tinto**	4917½	+35	...	5.1
41⅛	19⅞	San Leon Energy♦	25¾	+¼	...	9.6
½	⅛	Scirocco Energy♦	⅜	...	...	...
47	22½	Serabi Gold♦	32	-½	...	4.3
450	207½	Serica Energy♦	233	+6⅛	...	...
13½	8½	Shanta Gold♦‡	11½	...	...	7.3
2604½	1936⅜	**Shell**	2409	+22	...	12.7
2⅞	⅞	Sound Energy♦	1⅞	...	...	11.8
⅛	...	Sunrise Resources♦	...	...	...	...
¼	...	Tertiary Minerals♦	⅛	...	...	-3.8
⅝	⅛	Thor Mining♦	¼	...	...	-1.7
5335¾	3900⅝	Total Eng SE	4857¾	+85¼	...	11.1
¼	...	Tower Resources♦	...	...	...	-2.3
57⅛	23¾	Tullow Oil	23¾	-⅜	...	2.3
⅛	...	UK Oil & Gas♦	...	...	...	-2.1
418	135	URU Metals♦	150	...	...	4.8
1¼	⅛	Vast Res♦	⅝	...	...	-0.1
...	...	Victoria Oil&Gas♦#	3¾	...	...	-1.8
...	...	W Resources♦#	2⅝	...	...	-0.3
3¾	2⅛	Westmount Engy♦	2⅛	...	...	-0.4
251⅝	104½	Wood Grp (J)	219	-2	...	-9.0
6⅝	⅜	Woodbois♦	½	...	...	2.0
5½	1¼	Xtract Resources♦	1¾	...	...	-3.1
7¼	4	Zephyr Energy♦	4½	+⅛	...	-5.7

Professional & support services

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
5090	2240	4imprint Grp‡	4475	+275	...	75.5
555	460	Andrews Sykes♦	530	...	...	16.9
5874	3359	**Ashtead**	4717	+47	...	22.9
23	1	Asimilar Group♦	1	-⅛	...	...
133½	54	AssetCo♦	54	...	...	0.3
53½	38½	Avisen♦	50	...	...	...
148	117	Begbies Traynor♦	131	-½	...	...
207	155	Blancco Tech♦	177½	...	...	63.6
3225	2575	**Bunzl**	3186	+19	...	24.1
42⅝	22⅝	Capita	33⅛	+1	...	2.5
45	36	CEPS♦	39	+3	...	-8.8
150	105½	Christie Group♦	150	...	...	63.8
2157	1641	**Compass**	2157	+43	...	52.4
252	97	CPPGroup♦	209	+5	...	...
77	47¼	Croma Security♦	47¾	...	...	6.8
6268	4030	**DCC**	4719	-23	...	15.6
114½	39⅝	De La Rue	42	+1⅜	...	5.5
2970	2158	Diploma	2850	+10	...	50.9
914	597	Discoverie	808	+5	...	66.2
34½	23½	Driver Group♦	33	+1½	...	15.7
325½	175⅛	Essentra	198¾	-8⅛	...	22.3
3160	2285	**Experian**	2751	+8	...	35.2
12380	8680	Ferguson	11630	+15	...	17.1
270	215	FIH Group♦	270	...	...	...
11	5¼	Grafenia♦	10	...	...	-7.4
588	317	Hargeaves Serv♦	387½	-2½	...	4.0
735	450	Impellam Grp♦	660	+5	...	36.0
24⅝	4	Ince G♦#	5⅛	...	...	2.9
4985	3619	**Intertek**	4118	-40	...	23.1
251⅜	115⅜	IWG	150⅛	-3¼	...	-5.7
125⅜	77	Johnson Srvce♦‡	123¾	-⅛	...	77.3
181½	106	Journeo♦	171½	...	...	38.4
79¼	56½	Kier Gp	77	+1¼	...	7.5
1400	1080	Latham (J)♦	1230	...	...	6.7
1032½	695	Lok'n Store♦‡	840	...	...	25.4
3850	2300	Lon Security♦	2750	+300	...	15.1
395	220	LSL Prop Services‡	288	-4	...	8.0
125½	86	Macfarlane‡	111½	-½	...	12.9
325	90	Maintel Hldgs♦	105	...	...	3.2
2200	8¼	Malvern Intl♦	16½	...	...	...
245	182	Mears Group	245	+2½	...	21.3
608	590	Menzies (John)	607	-1	...	48.0
94⅜	52	Mitie Gp	92½	+¼	...	46.3
13¾	3¾	MobilityOne♦	5¼	-¾	...	3.9
56½	25	Newmark Sec♦	56½	...	...	...
6¾	3½	Norm Broadbent♦	5¼	...	...	-9.9
61½	37	Northern Bear♦	50	...	...	5.1
286	217	NWF Grp♦	259	+4	...	...
491½	362⅛	PageGroup	441	-2⅛	...	11.9
68	46	PCI-PAL♦	54½	-1½	...	...
12	7½	Petards♦	7½	...	...	13.6
26½	13	PHSC♦	15½	...	...	28.1
2⅜	¾	PowerHouse Egy♦	¾	...	...	-1.4
98	61	Record	85½	-⅜	...	23.5
437½	283½	Redde Northgate	379½	-3	...	9.5
750	555	Renew Hldgs♦	734	-11	...	18.1
851	489	Renewi	594	+1	...	12.5
645½	445	**Rentokil**‡	645½	+2⅛	...	45.7
466	270	Restore♦	294	+2	...	35.0
600	331½	Ricardo	580	-10	...	51.7
600	408	Robert Walters‡	420	+1	...	9.6
20	11½	Roebuck Food Grp♦	15½	-½	...	2.3
239	95⅜	RPS Group	221	-1	...	...
1159	812	**RS Group**	856¾	-9⅛	...	21.7
24	16	RTC Group♦	17	...	...	...
442½	238½	RWS Hldgs♦	248¾	+¾	...	22.8
440	365	Science Group♦	406	...	...	18.7
188¼	145⅞	Serco‡	150⅛	+1½	...	6.1
57½	27½	Smiths News	49½	+⅛	...	4.8
3596	2452	**Smurfit Kappa**‡	2980	-42	...	13.5
50½	32½	Staffline Gp♦	40	...	...	30.8
484½	317½	SThree‡	398	-2	...	12.8
137½	95	Synectics♦	106½	+2½	...	...
30	21⅝	Thruvision Group♦	25½	...	...	-9.2
94	35	Tribal♦	39⅞	...	...	12.4
89	49	Vianet♦	72	...	...	...
980	615	Vp	655	+10	...	16.1
2⅜	1	Westminster♦	1⅛	...	...	-1.4

Real estate

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
164¾	95½	Shaftesbury Cap	113	-1½	...	33.2

Retailing

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
81¼	37⅞	AO World	75⅞	-¾	...	...
503⅛	295½	**B&M European**	491½	+2⅞	...	11.4
42⅝	20¼	Brown (N)♦	27	-½	...	7.9
112½	40⅜	Card Factory	101⅜	-1½	...	...
2192	1549	CVS Group♦	2192	+22	...	61.4
194	104¾	DFS Furn‡	125	-⅜	...	6.6
1275	670½	Dunelm	1159	...	...	15.6
949½	600	**Frasers Group**	777	-4	...	34.5
2904	1673	Greggs‡	2852	-14	...	24.9
229⅜	124⅝	Halfords	198½	...	...	6.6
743½	480⅞	Howden Joinery‡	693½	-5½	...	13.0
941	666	Inchcape‡	775	+6½	...	26.1
4¼	1⅝	IQ-AI	2⅜	...	...	-7.0
186⅝	89⅛	**JD Sports**	173¼	+4⅝	...	20.9
291½	203	**Kingfisher**	250	-3¼	...	6.2
94¼	61½	Lookers‡	85¼	-⅝	...	5.4
169¼	93⅛	Marks & Spencer	167⅝	-⅛	...	...
11⅛	5⅞	Mothercare♦	5⅞	-⅝	...	-3.6
371	75½	Naked Wines♦	109	...	...	...
7076	4383	**Next**	6818	-34	...	13.0
952½	393	**Ocado**	441⅜	-11½	...	...
28⅜	14⅞	Pendragon	17½	-⅛	...	5.5
393	257¾	Pets at Home	389⅜	-5½	...	15.8
227⅜	72⅞	Saga	114	-2¾	...	...
289½	169⅞	**Sainsbury's**	289¼	+2	...	24.3
1714	1132½	WH Smith	1632	-1	...	...
27¼	14¼	Sosandar♦	24	-1½	...	...
1⅝	1¼	Stanley Gbbns♦	1½	...	...	-1.6
...	...	Studio Retail#	115	-2½	...	2.4
145¾	69½	Ted Baker	109¾	...	...	...
286⅝	199⅛	**Tesco**‡	275⅝	+2	...	14.0
54	38	Topps Tiles	49⅝	-⅛	...	9.0

Technology

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
108	62½	Access Intell♦	78	...	...	...
142½	23	Aferian plc♦	38	-1	...	6.8
186	126	Alfa Financial	142½	-½	...	22.3
20¼	8¼	Allied Minds	13¾	+3⅛	...	-1.2
430	321	Aptitude Software	363	-2	...	40.7
265	126½	Bango♦	200	-5	...	...
45⅝	21	BATM Adv Coms	25	-¼	...	10.4
26½	14¼	Berkeley Res	20	+1	...	-8.5
21½	6¾	Blackbird♦	6¾	-3¼	...	...
1¼	¾	CloudCoCo Group♦	1⅛	...	...	-2.6
2624	1810	Computacenter	2416	+20	...	15.0
90½	65½	Concurrent Tech♦	69	...	...	16.3
13¼	5¾	Corero♦	6⅝	...	...	...
2250	1080	Craneware♦	1545	+35	...	70.4
3¼	1¾	Crimson Tide♦	3	...	...	20.6
24	11¼	CyanConn Hldgs♦	17½	-¾	...	...
276½	190	D4t4 Solutions♦	205	-2½	...	24.2
⅛	...	DeepMatter Gp♦	...	...	...	-0.1
22½	13	Dillistone Group♦	20	...	...	-5.8
¾	⅛	EQTEC♦	⅛	...	...	-2.5
976	599	FDM Group	632	-8	...	21.9
16¾	9	Filtronic♦	11½	+½	...	31.0
2450	1230	First Derivts♦	1778	+14	...	...
647	281½	GB Group♦	305¾	+1¾	...	23.3
180½	136	GreshamTech‡	146	...	...	...
91	24¼	Ilika♦	48½	...	...	...
132½	79½	Ingenta♦	110½	-1	...	64.6
77	38	Intercede♦	58	...	...	20.0
200	112	Iomart♦	168⅛	-1¾	...	18.4
59⅞	23¾	IQE♦	23¾	...	...	...
152½	112½	K3 Business Tch♦	112½	...	...	-1.9
1900½	1038⅛	LG Electronics	1435⅜	-48	...	3.8
¼	⅛	Location Sciences♦	⅛	...	...	-2.5
532	256¼	Micro Focus Intl	532	+½	...	-5.6
70½	45	MTI Wireless♦	49½	...	...	16.4
55¾	17¼	Nanoco Gp	18⅜	...	...	...
108½	62½	Netcall♦	99½	...	...	...
52½	35	Northamber♦	37½	...	...	...
25¾	10¼	Online Blockchain♦	14½	...	...	-7.6
112½	76½	Oxford Metrics♦	93	...	...	40.4
9	4¾	Parity♦	4¾	...	...	-6.8
41½	28½	Pennant Intl♦	40½	...	...	...
616	390¾	Playtech	616	+8½	...	6.4
394⅛	322	QinetiQ	371⅜	+3	...	29.0
150	20½	RM	84	...	...	16.8
824½	595½	**Sage**	816⅛	-1	...	31.3
8¼	5¼	Seeing Machines♦	5⅝	...	...	...
139	50	Shearwater Grp♦	62½	...	...	38.7
72½	31½	Smartspace S'ware♦	54	+7½	...	-5.6
1441	1071	Softcat‡	1322	-16	...	25.9
286⅛	168	Spirent Comms	177¾	-1½	...	16.5
54	24¾	SRT Marine♦	45	+½	...	...
629⅜	417⅛	Tele. Ericsson	417⅛	+3¾	...	7.6
102½	72½	Touchstar♦	95	...	...	...
1047½	860	Tracsis♦	980	-5	...	...
20½	12¼	Trakm8♦	17	...	...	...
153	81	Triad Grp	153	-2	...	16.7
1380	227	Wandisco♦#	1310	...	...	...
916	415	Water Intel♦	447½	+5	...	24.6
236	144½	Xaar	183	+½	...	...
8¼	⅛	Yourgene♦	⅛	...	...	-0.1
207½	101½	Zoo Digital♦	135½	-2½	...	...

Telecoms

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
200½	100	AdEPT Technology♦‡	200½	...	...	...
170⅞	104½	**Airtel Africa**	115	+3⅜	...	10.2
196½	112	**BT Group**	152⅜	-⅛	...	14.8
90⅝	53½	Currys plc	55⅞	-⅝	...	2.6
1236	1012	Gamma Comms♦	1164	-6	...	21.0
144¼	92	Helios Towers	92	-1¾	...	-8.3
2215½	1103½	Just Eat T'away	1477	+69	...	-3.1
¼	...	Mobile Streams♦	...	...	...	-1.5
2¼	⅝	Mobile Tornado♦	1¾	...	...	...
2500	1570	Telecom Plus	1792	-2	...	45.9
131⅜	83⅝	**Vodafone**	89¾	-1⅛	...	...

Transport

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
340	234	Braemar Ship	286	+1	...	9.4
535⅛	285	EasyJet	488¾	-4	...	-3.0
10⅞	4½	Esken Limited	5	...	...	-0.2
139½	93½	FirstGroup	116½	-⅞	...	27.7
407	251	Fisher (James)	358	+7½	...	-6.4
173½	93⅝	**International Airlines**	154¾	-⅛	...	-3.4
343¾	183⅛	IDS	227⅞	-3⅜	...	2.6
439¼	310¾	Irish Cont Uts	404	...	...	...
1381½	667¾	Jet2♦	1235	+20	...	-6.6
272½	115¼	Natl Express‡	117	-½	...	-6.9
1050	820	Ocean Wilson	900	-2	...	4.5
105	104	Stagecoach	104⅝	...	...	14.7
24	19½	Sutton Harbour♦	22	-1	...	...
416	192⅜	Wincanton	217½	-½	...	5.9
3142	1357½	Wizz Air	3009	+31	...	-6.8

Utilities

12 month High	Low	Company	Price (p)	+/-	Yld%	P/E
114¾	67¼	**Centrica**	114¾	+1¼	...	11.5
258	189½	ContourGlobal	251	+½	...	28.3
812	473⅜	Drax Group‡	599½	-⅜	...	44.4
582½	457	Jersey Electricity	464	+4	...	8.8
1245½	858⅜	**National Grid**	1162	+7½	...	27.0
9¾	5⅝	OPG Power♦	8⅛	...	...	5.2
1099	755	Pennon	849½	-7½	...	61.5
⅝	¼	Rurelec♦	⅜	...	...	-0.3
3148	2213	**Severn Trent**	2933	-2	...	...
1920	1428	**SSE**	1889½	+27½	...	7.3
1145	828⅛	**United Utilities**	1077	+½	...	98.8

♦AIM company; # Price at suspension; † Ex dividend; ‡ Ex scrip; ▲ Ex rights issue; ▼ Ex all; § Ex capital distribution; * figures or report awaited; . . . No significant data. Companies in bold are constituents of the FTSE 100 Index. Investment Cos sector Nav Dis or Prm supplied by Morningstar.

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Money

Wall Street

	May 12 close	wkly +/-
3M	100.27	-3.08
Abbott Labs	110.49	-0.77
AbbVie	147.15	-0.88
Accenture	277.19	+11.54
Activision Blizzard	77.37	+1.37
Adobe Sys	335.45	-12.95
Aflac	66.11	-1.48
Agilent Tech	127.49	-5.81
Air Prods & Chm	278.00	-18.70
Albemarle Corporation	195.79	+16.09
Alexion Pharmas	182.50	
Allergan	193.02	
Allstate	118.26	+2.53
Altria	45.67	-1.02
Amazon	110.26	+4.61
Amer Elec Pwr	91.66	-0.45
Amer Express	147.93	-4.72
Amer Tower	200.29	+3.54
Ameren Corp	87.72	-2.75
American Int	52.49	-1.30
American Wtr W	149.77	+1.34
Ameriprise	293.33	+2.15
AmerisrceBerg	170.99	+3.00
Ametek	145.42	+0.40
Amgen	232.95	-3.58
Amphenol	75.10	-0.61
Anadarko Petrlm	72.77	
Analog Devices	180.57	-2.82
Aon Corp	336.17	+7.77
Apple	172.57	-1.00
Applied Mats	116.09	+0.03
Archer Daniels	75.38	-0.58
Arthur J. Gallagher	218.62	+4.80
AT&T	17.03	-0.10
Auto Data Proc	212.74	-2.74
Autodesk	194.45	-0.49
Autozone	2729.06	+37.48
AvalonBay	180.18	+0.43
Baker Hughes	57.68	
Ball Corp	69.49	-11.15
Bank NY Mellon	40.15	-1.02
Bank of America	27.09	-0.62
Bard (CR)	331.24	
Baxter Intl	42.47	-3.58
BB&T	54.24	-0.48
Becton Dickinsn	252.51	-1.15
Berkshire Hath	322.49	-1.39
Biogen Idec	309.60	-8.46
Blackrock	645.10	+0.62
Boeing	200.70	+2.36
Boston Sci	53.34	+1.80
Bristol-Myrs Sq	68.06	-0.08
Broadcom Ord	631.15	+1.03
Brown-Forman- B	64.27	-0.40
Capital One Fin	86.34	-1.67
Cardinal Health	84.77	+1.57
Caterpillar	209.54	-5.55
Celgene	108.24	
Centene	67.17	-1.22
CenterPoint Egy	30.05	-0.47
Cerner	94.92	+0.07
Chevron	156.62	-3.59
Chipotle Mex Grill	2045.63	+17.42
Church & Dwight	96.86	-0.67
Cigna Corp	256.57	-4.17
Cintas	474.36	+7.99
Cisco Systems	46.71	+0.46
Citigroup	45.45	-0.87
Clorox Co	169.13	-0.47
CME	184.95	-0.18
CMS Energy	61.72	-0.26
Coca-Cola	64.11	+0.09
Cognizant Tech	61.66	-1.63
Colgate-Palm	81.98	+1.39
Comcast	40.21	-0.22
Conagra Foods	36.75	-1.07
ConocoPhillips	99.43	-0.94
Consd Edison	99.52	+0.03
Constellation Brs	227.75	+4.31
Corning	30.99	-0.49
Costco Whole	504.07	+5.01
Crown Castle Int	116.69	-1.81
CSX	31.82	-0.04
Cummins	217.25	-9.13
CVS Caremark	68.58	-2.10
Danaher	227.34	-15.10
Darden Rest	148.55	-4.54
Deere&Co	373.98	-7.11
Delta Air Lines	33.23	-0.71
Devon Energy	47.52	-2.84
Digital Realty Tr.	97.10	+0.68
Discover Financial	95.23	-0.73
Dollar General	218.51	-0.44
Dollar Tree	158.72	+3.25
Dominion Res	55.19	-1.30
Dover	138.76	-5.75
Dow Chemical	52.31	-2.10
D.R. Horton	108.59	+0.47
Dr Pepper Snap	123.66	-0.02
DTE Energy	113.45	+0.09
Duke Energy	97.45	-1.91
Eaton	168.58	-2.47
eBay	44.91	-0.72
Ecolab	174.19	+0.52
Edison Intl	73.68	+0.12
Edwards Life	89.18	+0.44
Electronic Arts	125.47	+0.05
Eli Lilly	434.43	+6.62
Emerson Elec	82.52	-1.88
Entergy	107.14	-0.22
EOG Res	110.42	-3.75
Equifax	203.95	+3.84
Equinix	739.23	-0.77
Equity Res	62.80	-0.58
Estee Lauder	199.15	-4.39
Evrsurce Engy	77.08	-0.36
Exelon	41.75	-1.10
Expedtrs Intl	112.96	-4.71
Express Scripts	92.33	
Extra Space Stor	153.54	-1.20
Exxon Mobil	105.78	-2.90
Facebook	196.64	+8.00
Fastenal	54.75	+0.09
Fedex	222.93	-6.37
First Solar	231.69	+53.09
FirstEnergy	39.46	-0.24
FIS	55.07	-0.68
Fiserv	119.45	-0.85
Ford Motor	11.67	-0.32
Freeport-Mcm	34.99	-1.48
Garmin	103.77	-0.01
Gen Dynamics	209.96	-1.96
Gen Electric	98.80	-1.44
General Mills	90.61	+0.80
General Mtrs	32.40	-0.86
Genuine Parts	170.65	-3.08
Gilead Sciences	78.17	-1.58
Global Payments	102.60	-2.18
Goldman Sachs	319.50	-7.52
Google Class A	117.51	+11.94
Google Class C CS	117.92	+11.71
Grainger (WW)	684.62	+9.11
Halliburton	28.61	-1.27
Harris	189.13	-8.09
Hartford Financial	69.52	-0.21
HCA Hldngs	275.87	-2.19
Hershey	274.58	-0.75
Hess	132.79	-3.51
Hologic	82.77	-0.97
Home Depot	290.47	+0.85
Honeywell Intl	193.62	-4.80
Hormel Foods	40.24	-0.96
HP Ent	13.83	-0.28
HP Inc	28.90	-1.23
Humana	527.35	-7.67
IBM	122.84	-0.81
ICE Group	108.59	+0.28
IFF	83.16	-13.29
Illinois Tool	228.52	-1.79
Illumina	208.60	+8.94
Ingersoll-Rand	58.25	-0.92
Intel	28.95	-2.04
Intuit	427.62	+1.67
Intuitive Surg	305.27	+0.39
JB Hunt Trprt	176.01	-3.11
Johnsn & Johnsn	160.78	-1.90
Johnson Controls	62.03	-0.06
JP Morgan Chase	134.10	-2.64
Kansas City	293.59	
Kellogg	70.81	+0.46
Kimberly-Clark	144.65	-0.53
Kinder Morgan	16.80	-0.24
KLA-Tencor	386.97	+1.31
Kroger	49.18	-0.05
Lab Corp Amer	220.77	-3.09
Lam Research	527.10	-2.66
Lennar	113.23	-0.21
Level 3 Coms	53.63	+0.43
Lockheed Martin	450.79	-4.75
Lowes Cos	203.26	-2.55
LyondellBasell	89.26	-3.14
Marathon Petrol	109.88	+2.98
Marriott Intl	174.10	-2.47
Marsh & McLenn	181.22	+1.86
MartinMarietta	402.57	+4.91
MasterCard	381.92	-2.74
McCormick	90.28	+1.33
McDonald's	296.14	-0.46
McKesson	389.97	+24.10
Medtronic	88.88	-1.18
Merck & Co	117.14	-0.54
Metlife	50.22	-4.44
Microchip	73.81	-1.37
Micron	60.92	-0.31
Microsoft	308.97	-1.68
Mondelez	77.88	+0.32
Monster Bvrge	59.54	-0.17
Moodys	309.71	+5.07
Morgan Stanley	82.39	-2.49
Motorola Sols	292.96	+11.40
M&T Bank Corp	111.43	-7.15
Nasdaq OMX	55.14	+0.22
Netflix	339.89	+17.13
Newmont Mining	45.94	-2.78
NextEra Energy	77.96	+2.45
Nike	120.21	-6.38
Norfolk Sthn	211.91	+3.19
Northrop Grum	438.76	-8.05
Nucor	139.08	-3.24
Nvidia	283.40	-3.40
Occidental Petr	58.09	-2.60
Omnicom	92.84	+3.09
ONEOK	63.72	-0.79
Oracle	97.85	+0.88
O'Reilly	962.10	+21.32
Paccar	72.73	-0.03
Parker-Hannifin	323.99	-9.31
Paychex	106.89	-0.94
Paypal Hldngs	61.69	-13.28
PepsiCo	196.12	+1.85
Pfizer	37.35	-1.14
PG&E	17.45	+0.18
Philip Morris Intl	95.12	-0.44
Phillips66	93.22	-0.22
Pioneer Ntrl Rscs	204.78	-7.44
PNC Finl	111.58	-4.60
PPG Inds	138.10	+0.07
PPL	28.45	-0.30
Price T Rowe	105.31	-2.16
Priceline.com	1905.64	+20.64
Procter & Gmbl	155.96	-0.07
Progressive Cp	133.43	+3.91
Prologis	125.17	-2.08
Prudential Finl	78.94	-3.11
Public Serv Ent	63.81	-0.01
Public Storage	295.99	+0.08
Qualcomm	103.62	-5.16
Quanta Services	173.85	+2.78
Realty Income	62.03	-0.92
Regeneron Pharm	744.35	-17.75
Republic Serv	148.19	+2.33
Rockwell Auto	271.86	-11.56
Rockwell Collins	141.04	
Roper Inds	461.71	+3.59
Ross Stores	104.51	+0.07
RylCaribbean	75.11	-0.50
Salesforce.com	201.81	+4.22
Schlumberger	44.07	-1.68
Schwab (Charles)	48.94	-0.30
Sempra Energy	153.29	-1.63
Sherwin-Williams	227.43	-3.41
Simon Prop	106.35	-3.20
Southern Co	73.35	-1.59
S&P Global	359.34	+5.15
Spectra Engy	84.77	+6.36
Starbucks	106.12	-1.09
State Street	66.54	-1.96
Stryker	285.47	+0.76
SunTrust Banks	70.13	
Sysco	74.64	-2.13
Target	157.99	+1.69
TE Connectivity	120.46	-2.48
Texas Insts	161.88	-3.94
TheKraftHeinz	40.66	-0.66
Thermo Fisher	524.65	-21.73
TJX	78.99	+0.49
Tractor Supply Co	239.92	-0.41
Transdigm Group	795.59	+28.40
Travelers	182.09	-0.21
TSYS	133.27	
Ulta Salon	513.88	-6.17
Union Pacific	198.99	-2.24
Untd Rentls	331.66	-10.39
UPS	168.50	-7.24
US Bancorp	29.13	-1.61
Utd Health	491.23	-3.05
Utd Tech	86.01	-18.63
Valero Energy	110.52	+3.48
Ventas	46.49	-1.36
VeriSign	222.73	+3.24
Verisk Analyt CS	215.01	+4.13
Verizon Comm	37.59	-0.24
Vertex Pharma	347.41	-0.68
Visa	231.38	-0.40
Vulcan Mats	195.38	+1.81
Walgreens Boots	31.07	-1.10
Wal-Mart	153.07	+1.30
Walt Disney	91.99	-8.53
Waste Mgt	169.24	+0.81
WEC Engy	93.89	-2.12
Wells Fargo	37.49	-0.45
Welltower	52.22	-2.58
Weyerhaeuser	29.83	+0.16
Williams Cos	29.28	-0.90
Xcel Energy	68.89	-0.68
Xilinx	194.92	
Xylem	104.75	-4.22
Yum Brands	138.51	+1.02
Zimmer	136.75	-1.16
Zoetis	183.62	-2.61

London Financial Futures

	Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol	Open Int
Long Gilt	Jun 23	100.86	101.68	100.73	100.93	177131	488156
	SEP 23	100.98	101.06	100.98	100.97	6	39
3-Mth Sterling	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
	Jun 24						
3-Mth Euribor	Jun 23	96.470	96.470	96.455	96.460	106078	518246
	Sep 23	96.275	96.275	96.235	96.250	95437	606456
	Dec 23	96.410	96.410	96.355	96.380	78335	372448
	Mar 24	96.665	96.675	96.605	96.645	71752	343115
	Jun 24	96.950	96.965	96.880	96.925	68151	296624
3-Mth Euroswiss	Jun 23						
	Sep 23						
	Dec 23						
	Mar 24						
FTSE100	Jun 23	7755.0	7779.5	7742.5	7755.0	78551	603338
	Sep 23	7769.0	7801.0	7701.0	7743.5	5	718
FTSEurofirst 80	Jun 23				5818.5		
	Sep 23				5859.0		

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Major indices

New York	
Dow Jones	33300.62 (-8.89)
Nasdaq Composite	12284.74 (-43.76)
S&P 500	4124.08 (-6.54)
Tokyo	
Nikkei 225	29388.30 (+261.58)
Hong Kong	
Hang Seng	19627.24 (-116.55)
Amsterdam	
AEX Index	752.99 (+1.87)
Sydney	
AO	7453.20 (+3.50)
Frankfurt	
DAX	15913.82 (+78.91)
Singapore	
Straits	3208.55 (-21.00)
Brussels	
BEL20	3741.07 (+1.24)
Paris	
CAC-40	7414.85 (+33.07)
Zurich	
SMI Index	11564.73 (+41.76)
DJ Euro Stoxx 50	4317.88 (+8.13)
London	
FTSE 100	7754.62 (+24.04)
FTSE 250	19188.37 (-77.93)
FTSE 350	4267.72 (+8.92)
FTSE Eurotop 100	3657.04 (+15.49)
FTSE All-Shares	4224.06 (+8.84)
FTSE Non Financials	5152.09 (+12.62)
techMARK 100	6883.93 (-5.23)
Bargains	n/a
US$	1.2447 (-0.0061)
Euro	1.1472 (+0.0011)
£:SDR	0.98 (+0.00)
Exchange Index	80.01 (-0.32)
Bank of England official close (4pm)	
CPI	128.87 Mar (2015 = 100)
RPI	367.20 Mar (Jan 1987 = 100)
RPIX	290.10 Jun (Jan 1987 = 100)
Morningstar Long Commodity	677.16 (+5.72)
Morningstar Long/Short Commod	4703.45 (+27.75)

Commodities

ICIS pricing (London 7.30pm)

Crude Oils ($/barrel FOB)

Brent Physical	74.63	-0.76
BFOE(Jul)	74.23	-0.81
BFOE(Aug)	73.96	-0.86
WTI(Jul)	70.02	-0.86
WTI(Aug)	69.83	-0.88

Products ($/MT)

Spot CIF NW Europe (prompt delivery)

Premium Unld	815.00	832.00	+4.00
Gasoil EEC	671.50	672.50	-25.75
3.5 Fuel Oil	392.50	394.00	-5.50
Naphtha	584.00	571.00	-15.00

ICE Futures

Gas Oil

Jun	665.50-665.25	Sep	667.50-667.00
Jul	664.25-664.00	Oct	670.00-669.50
Aug	665.50-665.00		Volume: 632483

Brent (9.00pm)

Jul	74.40-74.38	Oct	73.47-73.43
Aug	74.16-74.14	Nov	73.14-73.10
Sep	73.83-73.80		Volume: 1856999

LIFFE

Cocoa

May	2441-2243	Jul	2127-2002
Jul	2265-2263	Sep	2105-2002
Sep	2243-2240	Dec	2087-1983
Dec	2198-2189		
Mar	2150-2139		
May	2147-2102		Volume: 97524

RobustaCoffee

May	2561-2525	Jan	2395-2320
Jul	2427-2425	Mar	2309-2100
Sep	2402-2398		
Nov	2386-2358		Volume: 21041

White Sugar (FOB)

Reuters		Mar	682.00-678.90
		May	665.60-661.40
Aug	715.90-714.80	Aug	641.70-637.70
Oct	705.90-703.70	Oct	619.00-614.50
Dec	694.40-690.60		Volume: 66244

London Grain Futures

LIFFE Wheat (close £/t)

May	186.00	Jul	190.00	Nov	197.00
Jan	unq	Mar	unq	Volume: 893	

London Metal Exchange

(Official)

Cash	3mth	Dec 22
Copper Gde A ($/tonne)		
8238.0-8240.0	8270.0-8275.0	8330.0-8340.0
Lead ($/tonne)		
2093.0-2094.0	2093.0-2095.0	2132.0-2137.0
Zinc Spec Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2515.0-2516.0	2537.0-2538.0	2543.0-2548.0
Alum Hi Gde ($/tonne)		
2230.0-2230.5	2236.5-2237.0	2415.0-2420.0
Nickel ($/tonne)		
22265.0-22285.0	22280.0-22300.0	23490.0-23540.0
Tin ($/tonne)		**15mth**
25000.0-25025.0	24650.0-24700.0	24060.0-24110.0

Eurotop 100

	Close	+/-	12mthhigh	12mthlow	Yield	P/E
RWE AG	37.50	-1.40	43.98	34.57		36.74
Swatch Group AG	294.70	-2.90	342.70	215.70	1.85	22.01
AP Moller-Maersk A Dn Kr	11930.00	+160.00	22260.00	11000.00		2.01
AP Moller-Maersk B Dn Kr	12110.00	+165.00	22650.00	11100.00		2.05
ABB Ltd S SF	33.12	+0.18	33.25	23.84	2.55	16.66
Air Liquide Fr €	163.70	+0.98	164.52	114.48	1.62	31.33
Airbus Fr €	122.80	+1.48	129.68	86.52	1.48	23.35
Allianz G €	212.00	+0.40	228.40	156.22	5.39	13.89
Anglo American UK p	2337.50	-10.00	4036.00	2320.00		4.63
Anheuser-Busch InBev B €	56.28	-0.23	62.01	45.56	1.33	29.12
Arcelor Mittal	24.30	+0.26	30.99	19.41	1.49	2.13
ASML Holding Nl €	596.60	+3.30	637.50	375.75	0.98	47.78
AstraZeneca UK p	12010.00	+86.00	12828.45	9399.00		2033.53
Atlas Copco A Sw Kr	150.20	+0.20	151.00	25.13		9.58
Atlas Copco B Sw Kr	132.25	+0.15	134.30	22.08		8.44
AXA Fr €	26.95	+0.02	30.34	20.34	6.31	9.41
Banco Santander Es €	3.14		3.87	2.32	3.75	6.53
BBVA Es €	6.60	+0.06	7.56	3.97	6.58	9.32
Barclays UK p	153.90	+0.42	198.86	128.12		3.73
BASF G €	47.10	-0.01	53.77	37.90	7.21	8.09
Bayer G €	53.73	-0.21	67.49	46.70	4.12	54.65
BHP Group UK p	2334.00	+21.50	2862.00	1998.60		10.21
BMW G €	99.41	-8.99	109.84	68.44	5.33	5.49
BNP Paribas Fr €	58.49	+1.14	67.02	40.67	6.40	8.74
BP UK p	475.40	-2.30	570.57	359.20		
British Am Tob UK p	2709.00	-18.50	3645.00	2697.00		9.16
BT Group UK p	152.40	-0.15	196.60	22.98		14.80
Centrica UK p	114.75	+1.25	116.05	65.78		11.59
Christian Dior Fr €	833.00	-6.00	872.00	521.50	1.43	31.54
Compagnie de Saint-Gobain	53.50	+0.50	58.54	35.18		13.20
CS Group S SF	0.76		6.76	0.66	12.45	
Mercedes-Benz Group AG	67.86	+0.09	75.92	50.19	7.69	7.04
Danone Fr €	59.09	+0.07	61.88	46.76	3.39	20.85
Deutsche Bank G €	9.62	+0.03	12.09	7.25	2.09	9.81
Deutsche Telekom G €	21.66	+0.12	23.13	17.33	3.29	25.83
Diageo UK p	3534.50	-85.00	3960.00	3413.50		27.19
EON G €	12.07	+0.11	12.29	7.28	4.05	6.96
EDF Fr €	12.00		12.05	7.27	2.33	9.57
Enel It €	6.06	+0.01	6.26	3.96	6.45	29.23
Engie (FR)	14.87	+0.08	15.56	10.07	5.75	10.86
ENI It €	13.39	+0.19	14.98	10.45	8.26	5.85
Fresenius Medical Care Ag & Co	73.67	-0.85	83.15	63.51		20.87
GlaxoSmKline UK p	1470.20	+25.40	2753.96	16.64		16.98
Glencre Xstrata	432.30	+4.70	584.50	395.40		15.83
Heineken NV Nl €	103.65	-0.10	106.30	78.28	1.67	18.64
Henkel KGaA G €	68.16	+0.70	69.68	56.55	2.73	18.81
Henkel KGaA Pref G €	75.46	+0.58	76.16	57.30	2.49	20.82
Hermes Intl SCA Fr €	1975.40	-13.40	2027.00	957.60	0.65	87.96
HSBC UK p	599.70	+6.10	653.80	434.70		13.10
Iberdrola Es €	11.87	+0.10	11.96	9.09	1.57	21.11
Imperial Tobacco UK p	1885.00	+3.50	2185.00	1646.50		6.30
Inditex Es €	31.49	+0.19	32.10	19.57	2.44	34.45
ING Nl €	11.69	+0.19	13.55	8.43	4.86	9.86
Intesa Sanpaolo It €	2.43	+0.03	2.60	1.58	6.36	78.07
Linde G €	339.45	+1.75	344.00	261.20	1.35	54.71
Lloyds Bkg Gp UK p	45.56	-0.32	54.33	38.51		6.33
L'Oreal Fr €	421.10	-2.60	442.60	300.45	1.42	53.21
LVMH Fr €	885.40	-2.20	904.60	535.00	1.35	38.45
Munich Re G €	327.00	+2.10	342.90	212.70	3.57	16.21
Natl Grid UK p	1162.00	+7.50	1271.45	844.29		27.09
Nestle S SF	115.38	+0.26	123.90	103.60		
Novartis S SF	92.53	-0.05	93.95	73.33	3.46	10.54
Orange	11.56		11.94	9.08	6.05	3980.67
Pernod Ricard NV Fr €	214.10	-0.90	218.00	166.60	1.92	33.53
Philips Elect Nl €	18.86	-0.10	24.48	12.13	4.48	29.21
Prudential UK p	1156.00	-25.50	1336.00	782.40		18.77
Reckitt Benckiser UK p	6498.00	+6.00	8020.00	5782.00		
Richemont S SF	154.70	+5.25	161.10	90.28	1.51	38.68
Rio Tinto UK p	4917.50	+35.00	6329.00	4424.50		5.14
Roche Hldgs S SF	315.60	+3.60	409.60	267.00	3.04	22.17
Rolls-Royce UK p	148.91	+3.01	160.00	64.44		100.88
Royal Bank Scot UK p	120.90	-0.45	265.00	100.34		4.76
Shell	2409.00	+22.00	2613.50	1908.60		12.70
Sanofi-Aventis Fr €	99.30	+0.14	105.18	76.45	3.36	20.82
SAP G €	121.28	-1.02	124.60	79.58	1.59	28.21
Schneider Electric Fr €	158.16	+1.04	159.80	110.02	2.00	28.94
Siemens G €	150.10	+1.24	152.20	93.67	2.85	23.42
Standard Chartered UK p	616.20	-3.80	797.40	515.60		13.82
Swatch Gp BR S SF	294.70	-2.90	342.70	215.70	1.85	22.01
Swiss Re AG S SF	90.00	+0.54	99.68	68.16	6.43	22.80
Telefonica Es €	3.88	+0.03	5.06	3.22	7.75	2.94
Tenaris SA It €	12.26	+0.15	17.83	10.95	3.52	10.19
Tesco UK p	275.70	+2.10	307.23	194.35		14.04
TotalEnergies	39.69	+0.87	42.19	24.51		7.83
UBS AG S SF	17.24	+0.09	20.85	13.87	2.85	8.35
Unilever NV Nl €	49.95	+0.18	50.93	40.28	3.43	25.64
Vinci Fr €	109.24	+0.56	112.40	80.84	3.68	25.13
Vivendi Fr €	9.72	-0.03	11.45	7.59	2.56	
Vodafone Group UK p	89.86	-1.13	132.10	1.04		
Volkswagen G €	147.75	-2.00	217.00	144.35	4.86	5.18
Volvo B Sw Kr	206.60	+1.40	219.75	154.28		12.86
Zurich Fin S SF	427.20	+0.40	461.20	384.70	5.62	14.92

Money rates %

Base Rates Clearing Banks 4.50 ECB Refi 2.50 US Fed Fund 4.50-4.75

Halifax Mortgage Rate 3.99

Treasury Bills (Dis) Buy: 1 mth 4.430; 3 mth 4.586. Sell: 1 mth 4.200; 3 mth 4.400

	1 mth	2 mth	3 mth	6 mth	12 mth
Interbank Rates	4.2013	0.000	4.6755	4.7447	0.00
Eurodollar Deps	5.31-5.33	5.37-5.41	5.04-5.04	4.67-4.67	4.22-4.22

Sterling spot and forward rates

Mkt Rates for	Range	Close	1 month	3 month
Copenhagen	8.5275-8.5668	8.5465-8.5477	118ds	366ds
Euro	1.1504-1.1452	1.1477-1.1476	10pr	30pr
Montreal	1.6858-1.6919	1.6876-1.6878	3ds	6ds
New York	1.2453-1.2540	1.2454-1.2454	8pr	20pr
Oslo	13.307-13.420	13.307-13.312	124ds	352ds
Stockholm	12.891-12.948	12.937-12.941	206ds	590ds
Tokyo	168.20-169.11	168.99-169.00	68ds	208ds
Zurich	1.1155-1.1209	1.1189-1.1190	31ds	95ds

Premium = pr Discount = ds

FTSE volumes (000s)

3i	2,991
abrdn	2,100
Admiral	386
Airtel Africa PLC	3,431
Ang Am	2,154
Antofagasta	1,263
Ashtead	930
AB Foods	606
AstraZeneca	779
Auto Trader	1,446
Aviva	5,772
B&M European	1,404
BAE Sys	5,780
Barclays	21,335
Barratt Devs	1,732
	1,772
Berkeley	244
BP	22,681
Brit Amer Tob	3,772
Br Land	2,658
BT Group	6,051
Bunzl	333
Burberry Grp	984
Centrica	13,212
Coca Cola HBC	1,060
Compass	2,707
Convatec	5,473
CRH	960
Croda	228
DCC	143
Diageo	2,865
Endeavour Mining PLC	502
Entain	982
Experian	693
F&C Investment Tr	405
Flutter Ent	410
Frasers Group	669
Fresnillo	1,099
Glencore	19,842
GlaxoSmKline	4,006
	29,236
Halma	499
Hargreaves L	618
	363
HSBC	15,676
Imperial Brands	2,589
Informa	1,601
Intercont Htls	732
Intl Cons Air	8,960
Intertek	258
JD Sports	16,096
Johnson Math	391
Kingfisher	5,977
Land Sec	2,057
Legal & Gen	12,161
Lloyds Bkg Gp	210,317
Lond Stk Ex Gp	665
M&G	4,332
Melrose	8,554
Mondi	1,304
Natl Grid	4,733
NatWest Gr	11,256
Next	236
Ocado Gp	1,998
Pearson	1,564
Pershing Sq	79
Persimmon	744
Phoenix Gp	993
Prudential	3,344
Reckitt Benck	1,604
Relx	2,681
Rentokil Itl	2,432
Rightmove	3,089
Rio Tinto	2,153
Rolls-Royce	24,355
	637
Sage Gp	1,448
Sainsbury J	2,695
Schroders	1,319
Scot Mtge	2,280
Segro	1,361
Severn Trent	313
Shell PLC	6,060
Smith & Neph	1,563
Smith (DS)	5,290
Smiths	443
Smurfit Kappa	185
Spirax-Sarco	162
SSE	3,127
St James Place	777
Stand Chart	3,803
Taylor Wimpey	19,665
Tesco	19,648
Unilever	2,438
	372
Utd Utilities	748
Vodafone Gp	60,893
Weir	239
Whitbread	677
WPP	1,325

European money deposits %

Currency	1mth	3mth	6mth	12mth
Dollar	0.13	0.20	0.29	0.55
Sterling	4.20	4.68	4.74	0.81
Euro	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.50

Gold/precious metals

Bullion: Open $2016.48
Close $2010.34-2010.62 **High** $2021.85
Low $2000.91
AM $2025.75 **PM** $2015.95
Krugerrand $1172.00-1244.00 (£941.05-998.86)
Platinum $1092.00 (£876.81)
Silver $23.89 (£19.18)
Palladium $1721.11 (£1381.95)

Dollar rates

Australia	1.5053-1.5055
Canada	1.3552-1.3552
Denmark	6.8628-6.8633
Euro	0.9215-0.9215
Hong Kong	7.8421-7.8423
Japan	135.70-135.70
Malaysia	4.4600-4.4650
Norway	10.684-10.690
Singapore	1.3381-1.3382
Sweden	10.388-10.391
Switzerland	0.8980-0.8984

Other Sterling

Argentina peso	285.61-285.62
Australia dollar	1.8747-1.8749
Bahrain dinar	0.4662-0.4731
Brazil real	6.1380-6.1417
Euro	1.1476-1.1477
Hong Kong dollar	9.7659-9.7669
India rupee	102.38-102.38
Indonesia rupiah	18486-18489
Kuwait dinar KD	0.3811-0.3834
Malaysia ringgit	5.5701-5.5764
New Zealand dollar	2.0121-2.0126
Singapore dollar	1.6664-1.6667
S Africa rand	24.048-24.059
U A E dirham	4.5872-4.5877

Exchange rates

	Bid	Change
Australia $	1.875	+0.01
Canada $	1.687	
Denmark Kr	8.549	+0.01
Euro €	1.148	
Hong Kong $	9.781	-0.03
Hungary	425.135	-1.25
Indonesia	18394.044	-43.52
Israel Shk	4.581	+0.02
Japan Yen	168.733	+0.40
New Zealand $	2.012	+0.03
Norway Kr	13.343	
Poland	5.187	-0.02
Russia	96.871	+0.71
S Africa Rd	24.115	+0.15
Sweden Kr	12.941	+0.01
Switzerland Fr	1.119	
Turkey Lira	24.429	-0.09
USA $	1.247	-0.01

Rates supplied by Morningstar

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Unit-linked insurance investments Full funds service at thetimes.co.uk/funds

ABBEY LIFE
01202 292373
80 Holdenhurst Road, Bournemouth BH8 8AL

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Ser 4	3755.80	3953.40	+67.30	...
Custodian S4	568.30	598.20	...	...
Equity Ser 4	793.40	835.20	-0.20	...
Ethical S4	430.40	453.00	-0.70	...
European S4	985.90	1037.80	+9.30	...
Fixed Int Ser 4	796.50	838.40	-1.70	...
High Inc Ser 4	2657.90	2797.70	+1.20	...
International S4	805.00	847.40	+8.20	...
Japan Ser 4	540.60	569.00	+2.10	...
Man Ser 4	2303.20	2424.40	+7.10	...
Money Ser 4	533.00	561.00	+0.30	...
Prop Fd Ser 4	983.70	1035.50	-0.50	...
Protected Gth S4	213.80	225.00	...	...

Fomerly Hill Samuel Life Assurance Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fund	2939.50	3110.60	+16.60	...
European Fund	5159.50	5459.80	+31.60	...
Fixed Intl	885.80	937.40	-1.10	...
Income Fund	3278.10	3468.90	-2.40	...
International	2175.30	2301.90	+13.90	...
Managed Series A	2163.30	2289.30	+4.50	...
Managed Units	3947.70	4155.50	+8.40	...
Money Series A	484.20	512.40	+0.30	...
Money Units	683.70	719.70	+0.50	...
Property Series A	1357.50	1436.50	-0.60	...
Property Units	2508.90	2640.90	-1.00	...
Smaller Cos	2745.90	2905.70	+10.50	...

Formerly Target Life Assurance Co Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	359.20	378.10	+0.20	...
Financial Ser 1	252.50	265.80	+3.10	...
Fixed Interest	590.80	621.90	-1.30	...
Managed	2123.90	2235.70	+7.50	...
Mngd Growth	801.00	843.20	+7.80	...
Property	801.40	843.50	-0.40	...
TSB Intl	1539.80	1620.80	+15.60	...

AEGON SCOTTISH EQUITABLE
08456 100010
Edinburgh Park, Edinburgh EH12 9SE

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	2087.09	2196.93	+23.60	...
Cash	279.54	294.25	+0.13	...
Distribution	96.15	101.21	+0.03	...
Ethical	659.72	694.44	+3.74	...
European	1368.50	1440.52	+7.70	...
Fixed Interest	469.35	494.06	-1.58	...
Global	373.04	392.68	+2.43	...
International	1125.03	1184.25	+7.47	...
Japan	437.60	460.63	+0.75	...
Mixed	949.52	999.49	+1.20	...
Pacific	1523.32	1603.49	-7.48	...
Technology	4986.80	5249.26	+107.01	...
UK Equity	921.11	969.59	+1.49	...

ALBA LIFE
50 Bothwell St, Glasgow G2 6HR
0141 248 2000
Formerly Britannia Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
European	1640.40	1726.70	-0.70	...
Far East	611.80	644.00	-2.90	...
Fixed Interest	779.40	820.50	-4.10	...
International	1400.20	1473.90	+1.30	...
Japan	708.10	745.40	+1.00	...
Managed Fund	1497.30	1576.10	+0.90	...
Money Market	404.90	426.20	+0.20	...
North America	1390.10	1463.30	+7.40	...
Property	981.30	1032.90	-0.60	...
UK Equity	2689.80	2831.40	+11.20	...

Pensions

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	1893.40	1993.10	+8.10	...
European	2082.80	2192.40	-2.20	...
Far Eastern	491.60	517.50	-2.90	...
Fixed Interest	793.60	835.30	-5.40	...
International	1204.60	1268.00	+1.20	...
Japan	342.40	360.40	+0.60	...
Managed	1056.80	1112.50	+0.20	...
Money Market	480.10	505.40	+0.30	...
North America	2044.30	2151.90	+12.80	...
Property	896.70	943.90	-0.60	...

AXA SUN LIFE
PO Box 1810, Bristol BS99 5SN
AXA Assurance - 02476 235500
Sun Life - 0117 989 3000
AXA Equity & Law - 02476 235400
Life Assnce - AXA Equity & Law Series 6. 1% AMC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balced Ser 6	2602.80	2739.80	+8.20	...
Distribution Ser 6	93.40	98.30	-0.10	...
Europe Ser 6	2132.20	2244.50	+4.00	...
Higher Inc Ser 6	5024.80	5289.30	-8.10	...
Property Ser 6	1576.50	1659.40	+0.70	...
UK Equities Ser 6	4123.80	4340.80	+15.90	...

Life Funds - Sun Life (inc Birmingham Midshires)& AXA Assurance 1% AMC

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Acc	475.00	500.00	-0.10	...
Deffrd Dist	701.60	738.60	-0.70	...
Distribution Fund	348.20	366.50	-0.30	...
Equity Acc	6030.70	6348.20	+23.10	...
European	1007.00	1060.00	+1.90	...
Far Eastern Acc	2212.20	2328.60	-1.40	...
Fixed Int Acc	924.00	972.70	-3.90	...
Global Eqty Acc	2550.20	2684.40	-12.40	...
Japan Acc	370.30	389.80	+3.30	...
Managed Acc	3190.30	3358.20	+10.00	...
North Amer Acc	3041.80	3201.90	-14.90	...
Pacific Acc	1649.00	1735.80	-8.90	...
Property Acc	1203.30	1266.60	+0.50	...

BARCLAYS LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD
0845 603 5000
Level 12, 1 Churchill Place, London E14 5HP

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
500 Accum	1490.08	1568.50	-7.10	...
America Acc	2740.82	2885.07	+15.32	...
Comb Inc Acc	2702.24	2844.46	-7.86	...
Equity Acc	3983.68	4193.34	-19.07	...
Far East Gwth	1244.89	1310.41	+2.09	...
Gilt 2 Init	208.55	219.53	-1.31	...
Gilt Edged Acc	848.34	892.99	-4.73	...
Inter 2 Init	481.90	507.26	-0.83	...
International Acc	1958.90	2062.00	-2.07	...
Japan Acc	449.73	473.40	+1.15	...
Managed 2 Init	550.96	579.96	-1.97	...
Managed Acc	2232.06	2349.53	-6.49	...
Managed Alpha	1703.46	1793.12	-8.12	...
Money Acc	435.33	458.24	+0.31	...
Prop 2 Init	215.62	226.97	...	...
Property Acc	871.64	917.51	+0.57	...
UK Growth Acc	1257.93	1324.13	-6.02	...
Univ Tech Acc	855.07	900.07	-0.91	...

& AXA Assurance 1% AM

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity 2 Init	977.33	1028.77	-5.34	...

CANADA LIFE
01707 651122
2-6 High Street, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5BA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	320.20	337.00	-0.10	...
CLife Euro Mgd	1684.00	1772.00	-44.00	...
CLife Intl Fd	1662.00	1749.00	-16.00	...
Deposit Fund	524.40	551.90	+0.30	...
Equity	1174.00	1235.00	-17.00	...
Equity Fund	3132.00	3296.00	+17.00	...
European	1957.00	2060.00	+6.00	...
Fixed Interest	955.70	1006.00	-2.90	...
Gilt & Fxd Int	631.20	664.40	+5.30	...
Gilt Edged Fd	1170.00	1231.00	-3.00	...
International	2596.00	2732.00	+19.00	...
Intl Mgd	3496.00	3679.00	+25.00	...
Investment Fd	1466.00	1539.00	-25.00	...
Japanese	380.70	400.70	+4.70	...
Managed	1291.00	1358.00	-9.00	...
Managed Fund	2707.00	2849.00	+10.00	...
ML Intl Fxd Int	697.00	733.60	-0.30	...
Money	538.30	566.60	+0.20	...
Multiple Inv	3436.00	3616.00	+15.00	...
North Amer	2280.00	2399.00	+16.00	...
Property	1020.00	1073.00	+2.00	...
Property Fund	1879.00	1977.00	+1.00	...
UK Equity	4793.00	5045.00	+33.00	...
UK Property	1330.00	1399.00	+1.00	...

CLERICAL MEDICAL INVESTMENT GROUP
Narrow Plain, Bristol BS2 0JH 0117 9290566
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	298.23	313.93	+0.14	...
Dist Acc S2	204.82	204.82	-0.44	...
Fidelity Bal	1170.82	1232.45	+0.74	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	486.52	512.13	-2.20	...
Non Eqty	392.25	412.90	-0.88	...
Nth American	2962.25	3118.16	+21.48	...
Property	659.41	694.12	-0.25	...
UK Gwth	1342.12	1412.76	+3.90	...
With Prof Bd S2	122.50	122.50	...	...
With Profits Flex	128.70	128.70	...	...
With Profits Reg	404.60	425.90	+0.20	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	340.00	357.90	+0.22	...
European	2128.35	2240.36	+3.06	...
Gilt & Fixed Int	546.44	575.20	-3.06	...
Halifax	142.88	150.40	...	...
Nth American	4501.34	4738.25	+21.83	...
PP Bal Pens	1173.81	1235.59	-0.17	...
PP Caut Pens	381.73	401.82	-1.01	...
PP UK Gth Pens	1172.23	1233.92	+2.28	...
PP UK Prop Pens	714.47	752.07	-0.11	...
With Profits Reg	736.70	775.50	+0.50	...
With Profits Spec	729.80	768.30	+0.50	...

COUNTRYWIDE ASSURED
Harbour House, Portway, Preston, Lancs PR2 2PR
CA Funds 0800 262536

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Life	222.50	234.20	+0.20	...
Deposit Pen	312.10	328.50	+0.30	...
Intl Life	978.90	1030.40	+13.00	...
Intl Pen	1342.40	1413.00	+22.10	...
Mgd Life	793.50	835.20	+0.80	...
Mgd Pen	1181.00	1243.10	+1.30	...
UK Eqty Life	860.20	905.40	+3.40	...
UK Eqty Pen	1117.30	1176.10	+5.10	...

CWA Series Funds 0870 600 0014

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Fd	1830.40	1926.70	-6.60	...
Glob Cash	366.10	385.40	+0.30	...
Glob Eqty	3395.80	3574.50	-9.90	...
Glob Fxd Int	1285.70	1353.40	-12.70	...
Glob Mgd	2377.20	2502.30	-8.00	...
Glob Prop	780.10	821.20	-0.20	...
Managed Fd	2970.60	3126.90	-10.10	...
Property Fd	641.30	675.10	-0.20	...

FRIENDS PROVIDENT
01722 413366
Castle Street, Salisbury, Wilts SP1 3SH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	325.80	343.00	+0.20	...
European	1588.80	1672.40	-14.70	...
Fixed Inter Life	661.00	695.80	-2.60	...
Index Linked	569.10	599.00	+7.90	...
Managed	1135.40	1195.10	-4.60	...
North American	1203.90	1267.30	-5.60	...
Overseas Equity	1765.30	1858.20	-8.80	...
Pacific Basin	565.80	595.50	-0.30	...
Property	670.60	705.80	+0.30	...
Stewardship	1762.40	1855.20	+7.70	...
UK Equity	1824.60	1920.70	-3.00	...

Formerly London & Manchester Assurance

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-1.00	...
Equity Life ‡	...	...	-3.50	...
Fixed Interest ‡	...	...	-2.90	...
Fxd Int Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-0.60	...
Gtd Dep Ex Cap ‡	...	...	...	...
Guaranteed Deposit ‡	...	...	+0.30	...
Inter Life ‡	...	...	-8.90	...
Intl Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-1.90	...
Prop Ex Cap ‡	...	...	-0.10	...
Prop Life ‡	...	...	...	...

FP Life Assurance ex NM

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	3228.80	3398.80	-15.40	...
Deposit	545.10	573.80	+0.30	...
European	3866.00	4069.50	-36.40	...
Fixed Interest	1378.30	1450.90	-5.50	...
Income Acc	4091.40	4306.70	-27.80	...
Income Dist	689.90	726.20	-4.90	...
International	1748.70	1840.70	-8.80	...
Managed	2536.90	2670.40	-10.50	...
Mixed	1776.00	1869.50	-17.90	...
Property	1887.20	1986.50	+0.50	...
Singapore & Mal	1240.80	1306.10	-6.50	...
Tokyo Fund	1140.30	1200.30	+10.20	...
UK Equity	2523.00	2655.80	-4.30	...

Friends Prov (London & Manchester) Ass Ltd Fd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Capital Gth Acc ‡	...	...	+10.90	...
Flexible Acc ‡	...	...	-7.10	...
Flexible Cap ‡	...	...	-1.60	...
Inv Trust Acc ‡	...	...	-9.00	...
Inv Trust Cap ‡	...	...	-2.20	...
Moneymaker Acc ‡	...	...	+3.00	...

GUARDIAN
01253 733151
Ballam Rd, Lytham St Annes, Lancashire FY8 4JZ

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	440.80	464.00	+0.30	...
Equity Life	4741.10	4990.70	-22.50	...
European	686.70	722.90	+1.70	...
Fixed Interest	1641.50	1727.90	-10.40	...
Index Linked	620.10	652.80	-4.00	...
Inter Life	2744.40	2888.80	+7.00	...
Managed Life	2726.10	2869.60	-7.80	...
North American	1410.20	1484.40	+3.60	...
Pacific	851.40	896.20	+2.20	...
Prop Life	1035.70	1090.20	-3.00	...

HALIFAX LIFE LTD
PO Box 285, York YO1 1YB 01904 611110
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	99.39	104.62	-0.01	...
Deposit	36.08	37.98	...	...
Foundation	103.10	108.52	-0.05	...
Opportunity	119.52	125.81	+0.22	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced S2	101.89	107.26	-0.02	...
Deposit S2	41.68	43.87	...	...
Foundation S2	103.12	108.55	-0.06	...
Opportunity S2	119.70	126.00	+0.26	...

INVESCO FUNDS MGMT LTD
Alban Gate, 14th Flr, 125 London Wall, Lond EC2Y 5AS 020 7710 4567
Formerly GT Global Fund Mgmt Ltd

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Plan Far East	554.30	583.40	...	...
Plan Wwide	924.50	973.20	-0.10	...

LEGAL & GENERAL INVESTMENT MGMT
0203 1243000
One Coleman Street, EC2R 5AA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
B Soc Lnkd Init	136.20	143.40	...	...
Brit Opps Int	221.20	232.80	-3.70	...
British Opp	817.80	860.90	-2.20	...
Building Soc Linked	283.40	298.30	...	...
Cash	442.90	466.20	+0.20	...
Cash Initial	119.10	125.40	-0.30	...
Equity	4825.30	5079.20	-29.20	...
Equity Initial	1073.10	1129.60	-14.50	...
Fixed Initial	463.80	488.20	+3.70	...
Fixed Interest	1348.60	1419.60	-7.50	...
Index Linked Gilt	632.40	665.60	-1.80	...
Index Lkd	270.30	284.50	+0.60	...
International	2379.60	2504.80	-13.20	...
Intl Initial	537.00	565.30	-6.40	...
Life Property	1403.90	1477.80	-1.90	...
Managed	3086.50	3249.00	-11.30	...
Managed Initial	770.70	811.30	-3.70	...
Property Initial	349.80	368.20	-0.60	...

LINCOLN FINANCIAL GROUP
Barnett Way, Barnwood, Gloucester GL4 3RZ
01452 371371 For further prices 0800 7315139
Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Aggressive Mgd 4	719.00	756.80	-2.20	...
Balanced Mgd 3	1646.70	1733.30	+6.40	...
Cautious Mgd 2	490.90	516.70	-1.90	...
European	847.60	892.20	+4.70	...
Far Eastern	1710.30	1800.30	-5.80	...
Framlington	215.60	227.00	+0.40	...
Green	637.10	670.60	+1.10	...
International	623.00	655.70	+3.90	...
Japan	302.40	318.30	+2.50	...
North Amer	4029.40	4241.40	+33.40	...
Perpetual	468.00	492.60	-1.30	...
Schroders	1479.10	1556.90	+14.40	...
Select Mgd	147.80	155.60	-0.30	...
UK Eqty Inc	1540.30	1621.30	-39.50	...
UK Equity Gwth	2293.30	2414.00	+10.50	...
UK Fxd Int	508.30	535.00	-1.20	...

Pension

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Aggressive Mgd 4	1003.20	1055.90	-3.70	...
Balanced Mgd 3	3744.50	3941.50	+16.60	...
Cautious Mgd 2	815.90	858.80	-3.90	...
European	1328.30	1398.20	+9.30	...
Far Eastern	2702.60	2844.80	-10.80	...
Framlington	258.10	271.70	+0.80	...
Green	1028.00	1082.10	+2.40	...
International	918.00	966.30	+6.40	...
Japan	379.10	399.00	+3.90	...
North Amer	11603.20	12213.80	+121.90	...
Perpetual	566.20	595.90	-1.90	...
Schroders	2846.70	2996.50	+33.90	...
Select Mgd	158.90	167.30	-0.30	...
UK Eqty Gwth	4097.10	4312.70	+22.30	...
UK Eqty Inc	2512.60	2644.80	-64.20	...
UK Fxd Int	1087.20	1144.40	-2.60	...

LLOYDS TSB LIFE LTD
01634 834000
Mountbatten Hse, Chatham, Kent
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	1662.90	1750.40	+1.00	...
Managed	3656.70	3656.70	-1.30	...
Income	3415.30	3595.10	-20.90	...
Managed Inv	1896.70	1996.50	-0.80	...

Life Funds-Series Two-Current Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	3250.70	3421.80	+17.70	...
Balanced	2583.30	2719.20	-2.40	...
Cash	416.40	438.40	+0.20	...
European Gth	904.20	951.70	-11.10	...
Fixed Interest	733.10	771.70	-4.10	...
German Growth	1675.20	1763.30	-5.00	...
Income	3153.30	3319.30	-19.40	...
Japan Growth	325.70	342.80	+2.80	...
Managed Inv	2064.20	2172.80	-0.80	...
Pacific Basin	1361.40	1433.00	-3.70	...
Property	1552.30	1634.00	-0.60	...
Smllr Cos Recov	4759.00	5009.50	+17.60	...
Worldwide Gth	2015.30	2121.30	+1.30	...

Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American Pens	1974.30	2078.20	+12.60	...
Cash Pen	314.70	331.20	+0.20	...
European Pen	1688.00	1776.80	-24.30	...
Far East Pen	576.50	606.90	-1.70	...
Fixed Int Pen	517.10	544.30	-3.70	...
FTSE 100	403.20	424.40	-1.40	...
Managed Pen	1010.20	1063.30	-0.50	...
Property Pen	946.00	995.80	-0.20	...
UK Equity Pen	805.40	847.80	-0.40	...

LONDON LIFE
0117 984 7777
Spectrum, Bond Street, Bristol, BS1 3AL

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	514.60	514.60	+0.30	...
Deposit A	295.00	310.60	+0.20	...
Deposit P	672.60	672.60	+0.40	...
Equity	4222.30	4222.30	+4.00	...
Equity A	938.60	988.00	+0.90	...
Equity P	3713.20	3713.20	+4.30	...
Fixed Int A	475.00	500.00	-2.10	...
Fixed Int P	1709.20	1709.20	-9.70	...
Fixed Interest	1117.40	1117.40	-4.70	...
Index Stock A	531.20	559.20	+1.90	...
Index Stock P	900.10	900.10	+4.70	...
Indexed Stock	707.90	707.90	+2.50	...
International	1457.90	1457.90	+6.50	...
International A	872.80	918.80	+3.90	...
International P	1921.90	1921.90	+9.90	...
Mixed	2381.40	2381.40	+0.50	...
Mixed A	749.90	789.40	+0.10	...
Mixed P	2375.00	2375.00	...	...
Property	787.00	787.00	+0.40	...
Property A	337.60	355.40	+0.20	...
Property P	617.70	617.70	+0.50	...

MERCHANT INVESTORS ASSURANCE CO LTD
St Bartholomews House, Lewins Mead Bristol BS1 2NH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Far East	731.20	769.70	+5.20	...
Gilt Edged	1294.00	1362.10	-11.00	...
Interest Fund	564.70	594.40	+0.20	...
Intl Equity	2047.60	2155.40	+0.60	...
Managed Fd	1233.70	1298.60	-1.30	...
North American	766.80	807.20	-6.70	...
Property	1412.10	1486.40	+0.30	...
UK Equity	1113.80	1172.40	-6.40	...

MGM ASSURANCE
MGM House, Heene Road, Worthing BN11 2DY 01903 836000

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit	114.48	120.50	-0.08	...
Deposit Acc	375.41	395.17	+0.21	...
Fixed Interest	387.54	407.93	-3.32	...
Fixed Interest Acc	1131.56	1191.12	-1.78	...
Managed	483.36	508.80	-9.19	...
Managed Acc	1550.47	1632.08	+9.92	...
Property	250.17	263.34	-0.42	...
Property Acc	820.93	864.14	+0.49	...

NAT WEST LIFE ASSCE LTD
PO Box 886, Trinity Quay, Bristol BS99 5LJ

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Growth Mgd Pens	570.23	600.24	-1.18	...

NORWICH UNION LIFE INSURANCE SOCIETY - Ex NUAM Funds
PO Box 140, Norwich NR3 1PP
01603 622200

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Fund	614.28	646.61	+0.37	...
Eqity Fund	16403.53	17266.87	-51.85	...
Fixed Int Fd	1602.36	1686.70	-8.98	...
Higher Inc Plus	221.08	232.72	-0.28	...
Intl Fund	1286.98	1354.72	-0.41	...
Managed Fund	6389.47	6725.75	-10.74	...
Property Fd	2418.83	2546.13	+4.55	...

Formerly Commercial Union

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	310.90	327.30	+0.10	...
Fxd Int	506.70	533.40	-2.90	...
Index-Lnkd	524.40	552.00	-2.40	...
Int Equity	1414.30	1488.80	-0.60	...
Managed	1456.40	1533.10	-2.60	...
Property	821.00	864.20	+1.50	...
UK Equity	1985.10	2089.60	-6.50	...
Var Ann (5) ‡	...	...	-2.90	...
Var Ann Acc (5) ‡	...	...	-48.10	...

Formerly General Accident

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	1455.80	1532.40	+8.00	...
Cash Deposit	263.50	277.40	+0.10	...
Conv Life	431.60	454.20	...	...
European	1162.90	1224.10	-10.90	...
Fixed Int	425.60	448.00	-2.40	...
Index-Linked	509.10	535.90	-2.40	...
International	874.90	920.90	+6.00	...
Japan	409.70	431.20	+2.70	...
Japan Smllr Cos	419.10	441.10	+2.80	...
Managed	736.00	774.80	-1.40	...
Pacific Fund	981.80	1033.50	+1.40	...
Property	596.10	627.40	+1.10	...
UK Equity	1136.50	1196.30	-3.70	...
Unitised Profit	412.70	434.40	+0.20	...

Formerly Provident Mutual

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Initial	87.00	91.60	...	...
Deposit Ord	324.60	341.70	+0.20	...
Equity Init	783.90	825.20	-3.00	...
Equity Ord	2967.10	3123.30	-9.60	...
Fixed Int Init	172.70	181.80	-1.10	...
Fixed Int Ord	642.50	676.30	-3.70	...
I-Linked Gilt Init	187.90	197.80	-1.00	...
I-Linked Gilt Ord	640.60	674.30	-2.90	...
Managed Initial	463.50	487.90	-1.10	...
Managed Ord	1735.70	1827.00	-3.00	...
Oseas Equity Init	465.60	490.10	-0.50	...
Oseas Equity Ord	1845.20	1942.30	-0.70	...
Property Init	257.20	270.70	+0.30	...
Property Ord	956.00	1006.30	+1.80	...

NPI
020 7477 5567
55 Moorgate, London EC2

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Americas	2505.10	2637.00	+25.00	...
Deposit	363.60	382.80	+0.20	...
Far East	1649.30	1736.20	-1.60	...
Fixed Interest	913.90	962.00	-3.90	...
Indexed Gilt	679.50	715.30	+2.40	...
Managed	1688.90	1777.80	-0.30	...
Overseas Equity	2353.60	2477.50	+10.50	...
UK Equity	2550.20	2684.50	-0.50	...

PEARL
The Pearl Centre, Lynch Wood, Peterborough PE2 6FY 01733 470 470

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Inv Equity	5950.20	6263.40	-3.20	...
Inv Managed	3854.20	4057.10	...	...
Inv Prop Ac Grs	872.10	918.00	+0.60	...
Inv Prop Dist	276.00	290.60	+0.20	...
Ret Managed	4560.00	4800.00	-0.20	...

PHOENIX LIFE LTD
Edward Pavilion, Liverpool L3 4SL 0151 239 3000
For further fund prices please ring: 0800 731 2031
For further fund prices please ring 0800 731 2031
Broker Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Moneyhill Grth	510.43	537.29	+2.58	...

Lifestyle Bond Funds (Post 29/1/01)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cautious Mgd	253.60	253.60	+0.60	...
Deposit	153.60	153.60	+0.20	...
Equity	274.10	274.10	+1.40	...
Equity Inc	304.40	304.40	+0.20	...
European	364.10	364.10	+1.90	...
Eurotech	90.10	90.10	-0.20	...
Far East	410.70	410.70	+0.40	...
Fixed Int	198.20	198.20	-0.40	...
FTSE All Share Tkr	297.00	297.00	+0.90	...
Income Dist I	113.50	113.50	...	...
Income Dist II	111.60	111.60	...	...
International	311.90	311.90	+3.10	...
Japan Grth	208.00	208.00	+0.80	...
Managed	281.40	281.40	+1.10	...
North America	468.50	468.50	+9.00	...
Pacific Grth	631.20	631.20	-0.40	...
Property	346.60	346.60	+0.30	...
UK Leader	285.50	285.50	+1.00	...
UK Smlr Cos	297.50	297.50	+0.80	...
With Profits	157.37	157.37	+0.10	...

Other Life & Pension Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Pens Unit W Prof	248.33	261.40	+0.21	...
With Profits Bd	192.51	192.51	+0.13	...

Pensions Solution Funds (Post 6/4/2001)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Grth	284.40	284.40	+0.80	...
Cash Deposit	163.90	163.90	+0.20	...
Equity	282.10	282.10	+1.40	...
Equity Inc	314.70	314.70	+0.20	...
European	433.70	433.70	+2.50	...
Eurotech	173.80	173.80	+4.40	...
Far East	492.40	492.40	+0.60	...
Fixed Int	222.10	222.10	-0.60	...
FTSE All Share Tkr	334.70	334.70	+1.10	...
Index Linked	274.00	274.00	+1.20	...
International	376.00	376.00	+4.30	...
Managed Grth	309.60	309.60	+1.40	...
Pens Protector	216.00	216.00	-1.30	...
Property	446.20	446.20	+0.40	...
UK Leader	311.10	311.10	+1.40	...
Unitised W Prof	209.89	209.89	+0.20	...

PRUDENTIAL INDIVIDUAL LIFE FUNDS
0345 601601
55 King's Road, Reading, RG1 3AH

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Euro Fund ‡	...	...	+5.60	...
N American Fd ‡	...	...	+25.80	...
Strategic Fund	644.30	678.20	-11.00	...

Scottish Amicable Life Fds (First Series)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund ‡	...	...	+0.20	...
Equity Fund ‡	...	...	+11.20	...
Fixed Interest ‡	...	...	-7.20	...
Intl Fund ‡	...	...	+11.50	...
Managed Fund ‡	...	...	+5.00	...
Property Fund ‡	...	...	-0.40	...

PRUDENTIAL LIFE FUNDS
01786 448844
PO Box 14962, Craigforth, Stirling, FK9 4ZD
Others

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
BonusBond	260.60	274.40	+1.10	...
Cap Gteed Bd	390.40	410.90	+1.20	...
Prud Inher Bd (Cap) ‡	...	...	-0.70	...
Prud Inher Bd (Inc) ‡	...	...	+0.60	...

Scottish Amicable Life Fds (First Series)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	373.60	393.30	+0.20	...
Equity	2551.60	2685.90	+4.50	...
Fixed Interest	873.70	919.70	-5.20	...
Index-Linked	573.40	603.60	+1.00	...
International	1970.20	2073.90	+8.40	...
Managed	2014.30	2120.30	+3.10	...
Property	1074.30	1130.90	-0.40	...

The M & G Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Amer Bond Acc	1351.10	1418.80	-21.40	...
Deposit Bond Acc ‡	...	...	+0.20	...
Equity Bond Acc	5221.30	5482.50	+8.80	...
Euro Smlr Cos	209.30	219.90	-21.90	...
European Bd Acc	2174.90	2283.80	+30.50	...
Extra Yld Bd Acc	4460.70	4683.90	-1.30	...
Gbl Basics Bd Acc	1161.30	1219.40	+16.90	...
Gilt Bond Acc ‡	...	...	-5.70	...
High Yield Bond	459.40	482.50	-3.20	...
Index-Lnkd Gt Bd	375.60	394.40	-6.10	...
International Bd	5792.80	6082.50	+66.20	...
Japan Bond Acc	488.20	512.80	+7.40	...
Japan Sm Cos Acc	235.80	247.70	-3.80	...
Managed Bond Acc	3653.00	3835.70	+5.70	...
Prop Bond Acc	1504.40	1579.70	-0.60	...
Rec Bond Acc ‡	...	...	+20.80	...
S East Asia Bd Acc	1300.20	1365.30	-20.40	...

PRUDENTIAL PENSION FUNDS
Scottish Amicable Non Series A

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
100% Safeguard	155.80	164.00	...	...
95% Safeguard	171.90	180.90	+1.80	...

SAVE & PROSPER INSURANCE AND PENSIONS
St James's House, 27-43 Eastern Rd, Romford RM1 3NH
Customer Helpline: 0845 3000144

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bal Inv Fund	353.40	372.00	+0.30	...
Deposit Fund (2)	649.00	683.20	+0.60	...
Gilt Fund	1401.00	1474.70	-3.10	...
Global Equity Fd	1603.10	1687.50	+20.80	...
Property Fund (46)	283.10	298.00	+0.10	...

SCOTTISH LIFE INVESTMENTS
0131 225 2211
19 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 1YE

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American	1749.00	1841.10	+22.00	...
Deposit	314.80	331.40	+0.10	...
European	2918.60	3072.30	+6.70	...
Fixed Interest	672.40	707.80	...	...
Global Mgd	1449.20	1525.50	+12.20	...
Index Linked	693.40	730.00	+2.70	...
Managed	1317.80	1387.20	-0.90	...
Pacific	1139.20	1199.20	+9.40	...
Pen Worldwide	504.70	531.30	+5.90	...
Property	929.50	978.50	+0.60	...
UK Equity	1724.10	1814.90	+5.00	...
Worldwide	440.20	463.40	+4.40	...

SCOTTISH MUTUAL ASSURANCE
0141 248 6321
301 St Vincent Street, Glasgow G2 5HN

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund	286.20	301.30	+0.10	...
European Fund	2168.80	2283.00	-1.00	...
Gilts & Fxd Int	511.40	538.30	-2.60	...
Growth Fund	851.30	896.10	-0.10	...
International Fd	1251.60	1317.50	+1.40	...
North American	2214.30	2330.80	+12.00	...
Opportunity Fd	848.10	892.70	+0.80	...
Safety Fund	612.80	645.10	-2.40	...
UK Equity	972.50	1023.70	+2.10	...

SCOTTISH PROVIDENT INSTITUTION
0131 556 9181
6 St Andrews Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YA

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash	303.50	319.50	+0.10	...
Equity	906.60	954.30	+3.60	...
Fixed Interest	667.90	703.10	-3.50	...
Index Linked	501.40	527.80	-1.40	...
International	1046.00	1101.10	+1.10	...
Managed	878.80	925.10	-0.10	...
Property	586.80	617.70	-0.10	...

Formerly Prolific

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Adventurous Mg	861.10	906.50	+0.80	...
Bal Gwth Mngd	2664.60	2804.90	-0.30	...
Cash Fund	549.70	578.70	+0.30	...
Cautious Mngd	381.00	401.10	-1.50	...
Equity Fund	3663.80	3856.70	+4.20	...
Equity Inc Dist	157.00	165.30	-0.20	...
European	849.50	894.30	-0.40	...
Extra Income Fd	1427.40	1502.60	-3.10	...
Far East	2087.50	2197.40	-10.00	...
Fxd Interest Fund	1107.10	1165.40	-5.80	...
High Income	3104.30	3267.70	-1.50	...
International	1255.60	1321.70	+1.30	...
Managed Dist	133.60	140.70	-0.40	...
North American	3669.00	3862.20	+19.80	...
Property Fund	884.80	931.40	-0.20	...
Technology	6685.70	7037.60	+101.00	...
UK Mid Cap	3426.30	3606.70	-9.80	...

Henderson Investment Bonds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Deposit Fund	373.40	393.10	+0.20	...
European Fund	1393.50	1466.90	-0.60	...
Far East Fund	2051.20	2159.20	-9.90	...
Fixed Interest	53.80	56.70	-0.30	...
Global Managed	1537.60	1618.60	-0.10	...
North America	1639.40	1725.70	+9.00	...
UK Equity Fd	990.80	1043.00	+4.10	...

SCOTTISH WIDOWS GROUP
PO Box 902, Edinburgh EH16 5BU

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Fund	364.70	383.90	+0.20	...
Equity Fund	2481.30	2611.80	-2.10	...
Fixed Interest Fd	903.00	950.50	-5.00	...
Indexed Stock Fd	638.70	672.30	-0.10	...
International Fd	2399.20	2525.40	+6.00	...
Inv Cash	554.80	584.00	+0.30	...
Inv Pol 1	5427.20	5427.20	-74.10	...
Inv Pol 2	4593.90	4835.70	-63.00	...
Inv Pol 3	3786.60	3985.90	-52.20	...
Mixed Fund	1954.90	2057.80	-1.40	...
Property Fund	916.20	964.40	-0.30	...

SKANDIA LIFE ASSURANCE CO LTD
01703 334411
Skandia House, Portland Terrace Southampton SO9 7BX

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Acc	947.70	997.50	+4.90	...
Equity Acc	2077.80	2187.10	-9.90	...
Global Acc	812.50	855.20	-1.20	...
Property	580.30	610.80	+0.40	...

STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO
Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh EH1 2DH 0131 225 2552

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	438.90	...	...	...
Equity ‡	4716.10	...	+20.80	...
European ‡	1017.50	...	+1.80	...
Far East ‡	524.80	...	+0.60	...
Fixed Interest ‡	994.30	...	+2.20	...
Index Linked ‡	615.60	...	+7.80	...
International ‡	2810.70	...	+8.80	...
Managed ‡	3060.50	...	+4.80	...
Nth American ‡	1042.30	...	+5.50	...
Property ‡	833.30	...	+0.20	...

Pensions (Series 4)

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	135.60	...	+0.10	...
Equity ‡	253.90	...	-0.70	...
European ‡	308.50	...	-3.80	...
Far East ‡	277.30	...	-1.20	...
Fixed Interest ‡	217.50	...	-1.40	...
Index Linked ‡	230.30	...	+3.20	...
International ‡	350.80	...	-0.90	...
Managed ‡	280.60	...	-0.70	...
Nth American ‡	393.80	...	+2.50	...
Property ‡	254.30	...	+0.10	...
Stock Exchange ‡	360.80	...	-0.40	...

SUN LIFE OF CANADA
Basingview, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 2DZ
Dealing: 01256 841414

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity Account	7728.70	7728.70	-17.60	...
Equity Fund Acc	2911.60	3064.80	-6.90	...
Equity II	6751.50	7106.80	-17.10	...
Fixed Int Fd Acc	746.60	785.80	-9.60	...
Growth Acc	9174.00	9174.00	-20.90	...
Indx-Lnkd Scs Acc	533.10	561.10	-16.50	...
Managed Account ‡	...	...	-22.90	...
Managed IV	3885.50	4090.00	-21.70	...
Mngd Fund Acc	1702.50	1792.10	-9.30	...
Money Fund Acc	341.40	359.30	+0.10	...
Pens Equity	1916.90	2017.70	+10.30	...
Pens Fixed Int	967.70	1018.60	-2.30	...
Pens Guarantee	1523.50	1603.60	+1.50	...
Pens Indx-Lnkd	695.40	732.00	+0.40	...
Pens Intl	1305.80	1374.50	+9.40	...
Pens Mngd Acct	4452.30	4686.60	+19.70	...
Pens Money	438.90	462.00	+0.40	...
Pens Property	1818.20	1913.80	+0.70	...
Pers Pens Acct ‡	...	...	+42.40	...
Prop Fund Acc	1415.90	1490.40	+0.70	...

TESCO PERSONAL FINANCIAL LIFE LTD
0845 845 5555
PO Box 23042, Edinburgh EH3 8YG

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced Growth	290.40	290.40	-0.60	...
Intl Growth	432.90	432.90	+3.50	...
UK Growth	286.50	286.50	-1.40	...

WINDSOR LIFE ASSUR CO LTD
01952 292929
Windsor House, Telford, Shropshire
Formerly AEtna
1982 Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash Deposit	332.30	349.80	+0.20	...
Far East Equity	1655.60	1742.70	+3.30	...
Fixed	660.40	695.10	-3.60	...
Index-Linked Fd	625.80	658.80	-1.80	...
Managed	1492.40	1571.00	-4.30	...
N Amer Equity	2298.60	2419.60	+12.80	...
Property	482.00	507.30	+0.40	...
Special Opp	2040.50	2147.90	-4.20	...
UK Equity	1655.90	1743.10	-7.80	...

Formerly AEGON Life

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Balanced	2081.10	2202.30	-6.00	...
Fixed Interest	612.40	648.00	-3.40	...
International	2399.60	2539.30	+2.50	...
Money	400.80	424.10	+0.30	...
Property	1214.10	1284.70	+0.80	...
UK Equity	2739.80	2899.30	-13.00	...

Formerly Crown

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Life Equity Acc	4176.60	4396.40	-19.50	...
Life Fxd Int Acc	771.60	812.30	-4.40	...
Life High Inc Acc	3418.30	3598.20	-16.00	...
Life Intl Acc	2913.10	3066.40	+3.30	...
Life Inv Tst Acc	3647.00	3839.00	-10.50	...
Life Managed Acc	2635.10	2773.70	-7.70	...
Life Money Acc	478.90	504.10	+0.40	...
Life Property Acc	711.60	749.10	+0.40	...

Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bear	64.58	67.98	-0.32	...
Bull	75.91	79.91	-0.23	...
Deposit	22.01	23.17	+0.01	...
Gilt Edged	36.33	38.25	-0.21	...
Owl	92.96	97.85	-0.44	...
Squirrel	29.01	30.54	+0.02	...
Stag	92.55	97.42	-0.20	...

Pensions

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Bear	109.60	115.40	-0.60	...
Bull	118.80	125.10	-0.40	...
Deposit	35.24	37.10	+0.02	...
Gilt Edged	57.59	60.62	-0.40	...
Owl	141.50	149.00	-0.80	...
Squirrel	47.10	49.58	+0.03	...
Stag	151.60	159.60	-0.30	...

Pre 1982 Series

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
3-Way Fund	3023.20	3023.20	-8.60	...

Gresham

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
American & Genrl	4588.60	4830.10	+25.90	...
Capital Fund	2591.90	2728.30	-12.20	...
Equity Fund	2952.60	3108.00	-14.00	...
Fixed Interest	620.70	653.40	-3.40	...
Income	1016.30	1069.80	-4.80	...
International Gth	3870.80	4074.50	+4.10	...
Japan & General	609.70	641.80	+1.60	...
Managed Bond	3338.30	3514.00	-9.60	...
Money Fund	525.40	553.00	...	...
Property Fund	1131.20	1190.80	+0.70	...
Recovery Fund	2691.80	2833.40	-5.40	...

WINTERTHUR LIFE UK LIMITED
01256 470707
Winterthur Way, Basingstoke RG21 6SZ
Formerly Colonial

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Cash ‡	285.70	...	...	...
Cash Inv Pens ‡	532.70	...	-0.10	...
Cash Pens ‡	146.40	...	-0.10	...
Equity ‡	1403.90	...	-0.30	...
Equity Inv Pens	9429.20	9925.50	-15.40	...
Equity Pens Cap	2376.30	2501.30	-5.40	...
Fxd Int ‡	1003.90	...	-7.20	...
Fxd Int Inv Pens ‡	2451.20	...	-12.30	...
Fxd Int Pens Cap ‡	677.60	...	-3.30	...
Idx Lk Inv Pens ‡	1479.60	...	...	...
Idx Lk Pens Cap ‡	408.40	...	-0.40	...
Key ‡	...	...	-1.10	...
Managed	1318.60	1388.00	-2.80	...
Mngd Inv Pens	3607.80	3797.60	-13.00	...
Mngd Pens Cap	910.40	958.30	-3.90	...
Pacemaker ‡	...	...	-2.10	...

ZURICH ASSURANCE LTD
0845 300 2332
UK Life Centre, Swindon SN1 1EL
Life Funds

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Equity	10799.50	11367.90	+33.10	...
Managed (1)	1095.40	1153.00	+1.60	...
Managed (2)	832.30	876.10	+1.20	...
Managed (3) ‡	650.00	...	+1.10	...
Mangd Gen 4	156.40	164.60	+0.20	...
Property	1859.00	1956.90	+1.20	...
Property (1)	390.00	410.50	+0.20	...
Property (2) ‡	424.80	...	+0.30	...

Pension

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Managed (1)	1552.80	1634.50	+3.10	...
Equity Acc	30379.80	31978.70	+112.40	...
Managed Acc	16839.70	17726.00	+26.90	...
Property (1)	720.60	758.50	+0.50	...
Property (2) ‡	766.30	...	+0.60	...
Property Acc	8591.50	9043.70	+6.10	...
With Profs (5) ‡	241.20	...	+0.10	...
With Profs (6) ‡	211.90	...	+0.10	...

Share Class 1 - Retail

	Sell	Buy	Weekly +/-	Yld %
Managed (2) ‡	811.60	...	+1.80	...

British funds

Index-linked

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
389.95	359.04	Tr IL 2½% 24 *	375.90	– .10	1.44	1.21
111.01	99.31	Tr IL 0⅛% 24	99.59	– .03	...	0.61
123.75	92.36	Tr IL 0⅛% 29	99.61	– .20	...	0.19
387.40	301.39	Tr IL 4⅛% 30 *	341.14	– 1.12	1.89	0.26
131.00	90.61	Tr IL 0⅛% 31	100.31	– .49	...	0.09
147.43	99.08	Tr IL 1¼% 32	110.21	– .59	1.13	0.17
143.84	92.56	Tr IL 0¾% 34	104.50	– .68	...	0.33
299.39	206.76	Tr IL 2% 35 *	244.94	– 1.48	0.99	0.45
140.79	82.01	Tr IL 0⅛% 36	95.74	– .87	...	0.45
161.62	94.08	Tr IL 1⅛% 37	108.54	– .99	1.09	0.51
143.82	78.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 39	92.55	– .96	...	0.62
156.72	84.60	Tr IL 0⅝% 40	99.75	– 1.09	...	0.64
149.47	75.20	Tr IL 0⅛% 41	90.68	– 1.13	...	0.67
122.62	93.33	Tr IL 0⅛% 28	99.91	– .15	...	0.14
127.85	99.85	Tr IL 1¼% 27	105.00	– .17	1.30	0.14
116.00	96.90	Tr IL 0⅛% 26	99.35	– .09	...	0.35
164.44	82.66	Tr IL 0⅝% 42	98.68	– 1.26	0.63	0.70
161.08	66.79	Tr IL 0⅛% 48	83.96	– 1.56	...	0.83
178.17	72.64	Tr IL 0½% 50	92.23	– 1.73	...	0.82
173.16	65.69	Tr IL 0¼% 52	86.01	– 1.84	...	0.79
226.52	88.77	Tr IL 1¼% 55	114.08	– 2.44	1.21	0.76
177.51	60.50	Tr IL 0⅛% 56	81.86	– 2.14	...	0.74
180.76	60.14	Tr IL 0⅛% 58	81.43	– 2.26	...	0.73
203.76	64.93	Tr IL 0⅜% 62	89.62	– 2.72	...	0.68
203.62	55.87	Tr IL 0⅛% 65	81.58	– 2.85	...	0.62
214.95	54.65	Tr IL 0⅛% 68	81.51	– 2.95	...	0.60
242.68	55.40	Tr IL 0⅛% 73	86.35	– 3.57	...	0.43
152.69	72.26	Tr IL 0⅛% 44	87.47	– 1.27	...	0.78
156.05	70.25	Tr IL 0⅛% 46	85.60	– 1.37	...	0.82
180.06	80.78	Tr IL 0¾% 47	98.29	– 1.61	0.78	0.83

Longs (Over 15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
143.52	89.35	Tr 4¼% 46	100.36	– .99	4.23	4.23
78.95	43.93	Tr 0⅞% 46	51.65	– .64	...	4.20
90.30	51.06	Tr 1½% 47	59.17	– .69	...	4.21
95.45	53.78	Tr 1¾% 49	61.81	– .78	...	4.19
139.71	98.36	Tr 4¾% 38	108.09	– .76	4.39	4.04
87.80	58.05	Tr 1⅛% 39	65.81	– .51	...	4.10
133.40	92.08	Tr 4¼% 39	101.77	– .70	4.18	4.10
148.06	89.75	Tr 4¼% 49	100.56	– 1.06	4.23	4.21
84.35	44.40	Tr 1¼% 51	51.90	– .74	...	4.16
141.09	82.51	Tr 3¾% 52	92.63	– 1.10	...	4.19
90.42	46.78	Tr 1½% 53	54.47	– .79	...	4.16
93.05	48.25	Tr 1⅝% 54	55.95	– .82	...	4.14
157.99	90.79	Tr 4¼% 55	101.64	– 1.26	4.18	4.16
96.54	49.39	Tr 1¾% 57	57.19	– .95	...	4.08
158.02	87.32	Tr 4% 60	98.25	– 1.39	...	4.09
63.03	26.21	Tr 0½% 61	32.36	– .74	...	3.92
120.70	60.88	Tr 2½% 65	69.18	– 1.16	...	4.02
152.99	79.01	Tr 3½% 68	89.04	– 1.43	...	4.03
71.54	35.82	Tr 0⅝% 50	42.67	– .64	...	4.14
134.98	91.30	Tr 4¼% 40	101.44	– .80	...	4.13
88.00	54.72	Tr 1¼% 41	63.06	– .62	...	4.13
121.78	76.78	Tr 3¼% 44	86.86	– .81	...	4.21
142.15	93.79	Tr 4½% 42	104.60	– .89	4.30	4.15
127.08	79.61	Tr 3½% 45	89.82	– .85	...	4.22
166.33	63.35	Tr 0⅛% 51	82.83	– 1.74	...	0.82
96.06	42.99	Tr 1⅝% 71	50.61	– .99	...	3.90
80.30	32.96	Tr 1⅛% 73	39.97	– .87	...	3.82
103.74	91.72	Tr 3¾% 53	92.20	– 1.12	...	4.21

Mediums (5-15 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
128.23	94.91	Tr 4¼% 36	103.45	– .62	4.11	3.90
104.43	...	Tr 3¾% 38	96.49	– .70	...	4.07
97.06	67.54	Tr 1¾% 37	75.44	– .57	...	4.02
90.66	72.39	Tr 0⅜% 30	78.92	– .30	...	3.64
125.65	101.89	Tr 4¾% 30	107.40	– .40	4.42	3.62
87.88	69.25	Tr 0¼% 31	75.90	– .33	...	3.68
93.56	73.06	Tr 1% 32	79.96	– .36	...	3.71
123.55	98.13	Tr 4¼% 32	104.49	– .46	4.07	3.66
101.14	94.95	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	95.83	– .47	...	3.77
90.80	68.57	Tr 0⅞% 33	75.51	– .40	...	3.79
129.10	98.89	Tr 4½% 34	106.08	– .57	4.24	3.83
84.86	61.24	Tr 0⅝% 35	68.34	– .47	...	3.91
95.61	84.28	Tr 0⅜% 26	89.02	– .14	...	3.81
99.59	85.65	Tr 1¼% 27	90.75	– .18	...	3.65
115.23	98.23	Tr 4¼% 27	102.40	– .23	4.15	3.67
93.05	79.15	Tr 0⅛% 28	84.88	– .19	...	3.65
101.43	84.72	Tr 1⅝% 28	90.39	– .21	...	3.59
128.56	107.13	Tr 6% 28	111.76	– .28	5.37	3.64
93.49	77.61	Tr 0½% 29	83.50	– .21	...	3.73
95.60	78.21	Tr 0⅞% 29	84.51	– .25	...	3.59
103.82	97.21	Tr 4 ⅛% 27	100.60	– .16	...	3.95
100.83	89.28	Tr 1½% 26	93.39	– .13	...	3.72

Shorts (under 5 years)

12 month High	Low	Stock	Price (£)	+/–	Int Yld %	Grs rd yld
97.16	90.04	Tr 0¼% 25	93.53	– .05	...	4.20
103.41	96.82	Tr 2¾% 24	98.15	– .06	...	4.21
101.38	98.04	Tr 2¼% 23	99.35	+ ...	...	4.31
98.11	94.34	Tr 0⅛% 24	97.15	– .03	...	4.24
99.63	94.79	Tr 1% 24	97.00	– .03	...	4.33
98.21	90.15	Tr 0⅝% 25	93.80	– .07	...	3.78
110.18	100.77	Tr 5% 25	101.61	– .10	4.92	4.07
102.39	93.15	Tr 2% 25	95.86	– .10	...	3.89
100.88	98.23	Tr 3½% 25	98.49	– .12	...	4.16
95.84	86.33	Tr 0⅛% 26	90.87	– .10	...	3.70
99.56	97.34	Tr 0¾% 23	99.35	+ .02	...	4.13

* maturities as having a 3-month indexation lag and which trade on a real clean price basis, excluding inflation adjustment charge

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6 NIGHTS DEPARTING 2ND JUNE 2024

JUNE 2024

Sun 2	**Embark *Ambition* and depart Bristol**
Mon 3	Relaxing at sea
Tue 4	**St. Peter Port, Guernsey**
Wed 5	**Le Havre (for Paris), France** More than merely a gateway to the French capital, Le Havre is a major port city that was almost completely rebuilt after WWII. Take time to discover its concrete grandeur before you head inland to the art, fashion and haute cuisine of Paris
Thu 6	**Relaxing at Sea** ★D-Day Anniversary★ Mark this historic occasion as both *Ambition* and *Ambience* sail alongside each other on 6th June 2024
Fri 7	**St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly** An archipelago off the Cornish Coast, these sun-drenched islands are covered in heathland and fringed by sandy beaches. St. Mary's might be the largest island, but with a population of just 1,800 there is ample space to explore its beaches, galleries, pubs, shops and cafés
Sat 8	**Arrive in Bristol**

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13 NIGHTS DEPARTING 4TH JUNE 2024

JUNE 2024

Tue 4	**Embark *Ambience* and depart London Tilbury**
Wed 5	**Portsmouth, England**
Thu 6	**Relaxing at Sea** ★D-Day Anniversary★ Mark this historic occasion as both *Ambience* and *Ambition* sail alongside each other on 6th June 2024
Fri 7	**Honfleur, France** The port at the Normandy city of Honfleur sets the standard for picturesque ports everywhere. This beautiful setting has been captured on canvas by a multitude of Impressionist painters, and a walk through its romantic streets will easily show you why
Sat 8	**St. Peter Port, Guernsey**
Sun 9	**St. Mary's, Isles of Scilly**
Mon 10	**Cobh (for Cork), Ireland**
Tue 11	**Holyhead, Wales**
Thu 13	**Tobermory, Isle of Mull**
Fri 14	**Stornoway, Isle of Lewis**
Sat 15	**Kirkwall, Orkney Isles**
Mon 17	**Arrive in London Tilbury**

Dates not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea

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CABIN	GRADE	FULL FARE (PP)	READER OFFERS LTD FARE (PP)
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Premium Ocean View	12	~~£2,759~~	£1,699
Superior Balcony	14	~~£3,399~~	£2,439
Superior Junior Suite	JS	~~£4,769~~	£2,939
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All yours for **£745** (RRP £1275) including **FREE DELIVERY AND COVER** (while stocks last).

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REGAL ARMCHAIR AND FOOTSTOOL SET



Instantly transform any room with the stylish **Motcomb accent armchair**, with elegant wooden legs, complete with comfy footstool and scatter cushion. This is a classic wingback design, perfect for sitting back and relaxing. Upholstered in durable wool effect fabric and also featuring a firm padded seat and cushioned backrest. Comes in Mustard, Grey, Green, Duck Egg Blue, Beige (pictured) and Blue Tartan.

SALE price just **£395**, was £475.

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MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL



Make a statement with this stunning full-length **Monet** garden mirror. This gorgeous mirror has been delicately crafted from metal in a rustic, Antique Black finish, and is suitable for all weather types thanks to a frost-protected finish. It is also delivered straight to your door via a specialist mirror courier. Simply lean it gently against a wall or hang it from a wall or door, and give the illusion of an intriguing garden beyond.

Comes in medium, **priced at £265** or large (shown) **priced at £375**.

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SHADY SPOT



With summer around the corner, it's time to start enjoying your garden to its fullest from the tranquillity and comfort of the **Cosy Arbour**. Made in the UK from the highest quality Scandinavian Redwood, fully pressure-treated to prevent rot, the iconic roof comes felted underneath for an extra waterproof layer against the elements.

Coming in at **£595 for the 2 Seat or £695 for the pictured three-seater with FREE DELIVERY**

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PERFECT BENCHES

Give your spring garden a welcome breath of fresh air with a classic wooden bench. An iconic comfortable design Handmade in the UK from Scandinavian Redwood that looks stunning and boasts a weather-resistant finish. Arrives fully assembled.





Choose **Selby** - Natural or **Harrogate** - Dark Oak.

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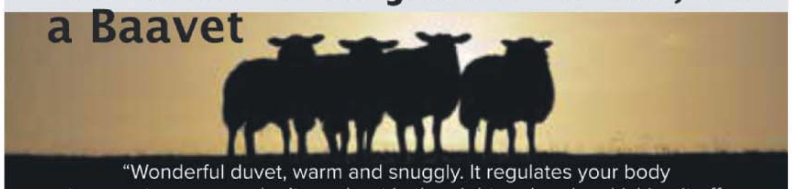
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14 NIGHTS DEPARTING 28TH SEPTEMBER, 26TH OCTOBER, 9TH & 23RD NOVEMBER & 7TH DECEMBER 2023

OTHER DATES ARE AVAILABLE ON REQUEST - PLEASE CALL FOR DETAILS

Day 1 **Fly from London to Siem Reap, Cambodia>**

Day 2 **Siem Reap, Cambodia**
Upon arrival, transfer to the Hotel Sofitel Angkor‡ for your three night stay, including breakfast

Day 3 **Siem Reap, Cambodia**
This morning, head to Angkor Archaeological Park. Visit Angkor Thom and see the 12th century temple, Bayon. This afternoon, explore the temple of Ta Prohm before visiting a Siem Reap organisation that provides education opportunities for disadvantaged children. Tonight, enjoy a traditional Apsara dance performance and Welcome Dinner (B, D)

Day 4 **Siem Reap, Cambodia** ★Cruise Highlight★
★Signature Experience: Rise early this morning and enjoy a special sunrise experience at Angkor Wat
★Freedom of Choice: Today in Siem Reap, embark on your selected included sightseeing activity. Perhaps visit the temple of Wat Preah Prom Rath and participate in a Buddhist blessing; enjoy an exciting tuk tuk ride to the Senteurs d'Angkor workshop, participate in a fun Apsara dance class; take off on a thrilling quad bike adventure; enjoy a leisurely bicycle tour across the Cambodian countryside; take a horse and cart ride; partake in a traditional Khmer cookery class; go on a shopping adventure; or perhaps indulge in a relaxing spa treatment
★Freedom of Choice Dining: Tonight, choose where to dine from a selection of included restaurants (B, D)

Day 5 **Siem Reap - Kampong Cham - Koh Pen, Cambodia**
After breakfast, transfer to Kampong Cham and embark the *Mekong Serenity* for your luxurious seven night 5★ all-inclusive river cruise. You'll also enjoy a tuk tuk ride & explore the island of Koh Pen (B, L, D)

Day 6 **Angkor Ban, Okhna Tey, Cambodia**
Take a walking discovery of Angkor Ban. Later, your ship glides along the lush banks of the Mekong to Okhna Tey. Here, gain an insight into the traditional silk weaving process that has been preserved for centuries. Afterwards, return to your river ship, where you'll relax and unwind before delicious on board dining tonight (B, L, D)

Day 7 **Phnom Penh, Oudong, Koh Chen, Cambodia**
Disembark in Phnom Penh and discover Oudong, a place of pilgrimage for Cambodians. While here, be treated to a Buddhist Blessing Ceremony at a monastery and take a leisurely stroll through the village Koh Chen. The afternoon is yours to explore Phnom Penh as you wish. Tonight before dinner, be treated to a special Khmer folk performance (B, L, D)

Day 8 **Phnom Penh, Cambodia**
★Freedom of Choice: Today in Phnom Penh, perhaps enjoy a tour of the Royal Palace and Silver Pagoda; visit the infamous Killing Fields and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum; explore the National Museum of Cambodia; or take a guided city tour in a tuk tuk (B, L, D)

Day 9 **Phnom Penh, Cambodia – Border Crossing into Vietnam**
This morning, enjoy your time at leisure on board. This afternoon, take part in a fruit-carving demonstration on board whilst border formalities are carried out as you cross the border into Vietnam (B, L, D)

Day 10 **Tan Chau - Evergreen Island, Vietnam**
Travel on a small boat around Tan Chau, stepping ashore for a rickshaw tour. Later, visit a local evergreen island and witness authentic rural Mekong life. The remainder of your day is spent relaxing on board your luxurious river ship (B, L, D)

Day 11 **Sa Dec - Cái Bè, Vietnam**
This morning, cruise towards the quaint town of Sa Dec where you will tour Huynh Thuy Le's old house and learn the story behind Marguerite Duras' best-selling novel, The Lover. Later, visit a traditional Cao Dai temple. This afternoon, a local boat will take you to the town of Cái Bè. Step ashore to explore before visiting a local rice paper manufacturer (B, L, D)

Day 12 **Disembark cruise – Long Tan OR Cu Chi Tunnels – Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**
★Signature Experience: Disembark and perhaps head to Ba Ria to learn about the Battle of Long Tan, then attend a memorial service at the Long Tan Cross. Alternatively, visit the Cu Chi Tunnels. Transfer to the Park Hyatt Saigon Hotel‡ for your two night stay including breakfast (B, L, D)

Day 13 **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**
★Freedom of Choice: Today in Ho Chi Minh City, perhaps enjoy a walking tour or embark on an exciting motorbike city tour. Alternatively, tour the Ky Long Art Villa; try out your culinary skills with a cookery class at Luke Nguyen's
★Signature Experience: This evening, celebrate the end of your journey with a special dinner at Vietnam House where an impressive menu created by Luke Nguyen awaits (B, D)

Day 14 **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**
Transfer to the airport for your overnight flight to London>

Day 15 **Arrive in London**

Itinerary is based on 26th October 2023 departure and other departure dates may operate in reverse. Meals are included as stated: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

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Bayon Suite	-	~~£7,940~~	**£4,989**
Angkor Suite	-	~~£8,590~~	**£5,489**

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Fares and availability are based on 26th October 2023 departure

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  - *Mekong Serenity* Services of an APT Cruise Director and expert local guides
  - Enjoy a special sunrise experience at Angkor WatDine at Vietnam House in Ho Chi Minh City, sit down to authentic cuisine with a dash of modern Australian flair
  - Experience a traditional Buddhist blessing ceremony at a monastery in Oudong
- **TWO NIGHT** luxury post-cruise hotel stay at the Park Hyatt Saigon Hotel in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam‡
- Overseas transfers, port charges and tipping
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Today Mainly dry with increasing amounts of sunshine and feeling warm. Max 20C (68F), min 4C (39F)

Around Britain

Key: b=bright, c=cloud, d=drizzle, pc=partly cloudy du=dull, f=fair, fg=fog, h=hail, m=mist, r=rain, sh=showers, sl=sleet, sn=snow, s=sun, t=thunder *=previous day **=data not available

	Temp C midday yesterday		Rain mm 24 hrs to 5pm yesterday	Sun hr*
Aberdeen	10	C	0.0	0.0
Aberporth	13	S	0.2	7.4
Anglesey	16	PC	3.6	4.9
Aviemore	12	C	0.0	3.0
Barnstaple	17	PC	0.0	**
Bedford	12	C	1.2	**
Belfast	14	C	0.0	5.0
Birmingham	13	C	0.0	**
Bournemouth	16	C	0.0	2.8
Bridlington	10	C	0.0	**
Bristol	15	PC	0.0	5.5
Camborne	14	PC	0.0	4.1
Cardiff	16	PC	0.0	5.6
Edinburgh	10	C	0.0	6.4
Eskdalemuir	10	C	1.6	2.5
Glasgow	13	C	0.0	4.0
Hereford	15	PC	4.6	**
Herstmonceux	12	R	1.4	5.6
Ipswich	10	R	4.0	5.2
Isle of Man	13	PC	0.0	3.0
Isle of Wight	15	PC	0.0	**
Jersey	14	S	0.0	8.1
Keswick	**	**	**	**
Kinloss	11	C	0.0	0.0
Leeds	9	C	0.0	**
Lerwick	**	**	0.2	1.4
Leuchars	10	C	0.0	4.4
Lincoln	11	C	0.0	7.1
Liverpool	16	B	2.8	**
London	12	R	0.2	4.3
Lyneham	15	C	4.6	5.7
Manchester	15	B	0.0	1.2
Margate	10	D	1.8	5.0
Milford Haven	19	PC	0.0	**
Newcastle	9	D	0.0	**
Nottingham	13	C	0.0	3.4
Orkney	10	C	0.0	0.0
Oxford	13	C	8.6	**
Plymouth	18	PC	0.0	**
Portland	16	PC	0.0	**
Scilly, St Mary's	14	S	0.0	**
Shoreham	13	R	2.2	4.1
Shrewsbury	15	C	0.0	3.1
Snowdonia	13	C	0.4	**
Southend	11	R	1.6	4.3
South Uist	14	S	0.0	**
Stornoway	13	S	0.0	1.3
Tiree	13	PC	0.2	3.4
Whitehaven	12	C	0.0	1.3
Wick	10	C	0.0	**
Yeovilton	17	PC	0.0	3.2

The world

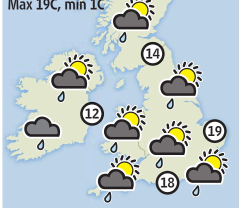
All readings local midday yesterday

Alicante	21	PC	Madeira	21	PC
Amsterdam	19	PC	Madrid	16	S
Athens	18	PC	Malaga	22	PC
Auckland	14	S	Mallorca	22	PC
Bahrain	34	S	Malta	20	PC
Bangkok	34	PC	Melbourne	17	B
Barbados	30	PC	Mexico City	28	B
Barcelona	17	T	Miami	30	PC
Beijing	26	S	Milan	12	B
Beirut	24	PC	Mombasa	29	PC
Belgrade	13	PC	Montreal	22	PC
Berlin	21	S	Moscow	19	S
Bermuda	21	B	Mumbai	34	S
Bordeaux	16	T	Munich	11	R
Brussels	14	B	Nairobi	23	B
Bucharest	14	S	Naples	17	R
Budapest	11	C	New Orleans	29	R
Buenos Aires	15	S	New York	23	B
Cairo	28	S	Nice	17	PC
Calcutta	34	S	Nicosia	31	PC
Canberra	17	S	Oslo	21	S
Cape Town	16	PC	Paris	12	SH
Chicago	28	B	Perth	21	S
Copenhagen	20	S	Prague	16	PC
Corfu	20	PC	Reykjavik	8	B
Delhi	40	S	Riga	22	S
Dubai	38	S	Rio de Janeiro	23	C
Dublin	14	B	Riyadh	39	S
Faro	23	S	Rome	20	PC
Florence	18	S	San Francisco	17	B
Frankfurt	15	SH	Santiago	24	S
Geneva	17	PC	São Paulo	22	PC
Gibraltar	22	PC	Seoul	21	S
Helsinki	20	S	Seychelles	30	PC
Hong Kong	25	R	Singapore	33	PC
Honolulu	24	R	St Petersburg	19	S
Istanbul	14	B	Stockholm	20	S
Jerusalem	27	S	Sydney	22	PC
Johannesburg	21	S	Tel Aviv	27	S
Kuala Lumpur	35	PC	Tenerife	24	PC
Kyiv	**	**	Tokyo	19	PC
Lanzarote	24	PC	Vancouver	18	B
Las Palmas	25	PC	Venice	16	PC
Lima	21	DU	Vienna	11	R
Lisbon	21	S	Warsaw	19	S
Los Angeles	19	PC	Washington	25	B
Luxor	35	S	Zurich	16	PC

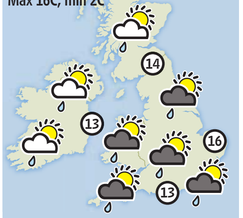
Five days ahead

Turning mainly dry with increasing amounts of sunshine, especially in the south

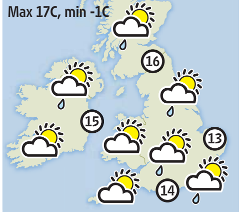
Tomorrow
Warm and mostly dry in southeast England but the risk of showers later. Cloudy with showery rain spreading eastwards over the rest of Britain and Ireland.
Max 19C, min 1C



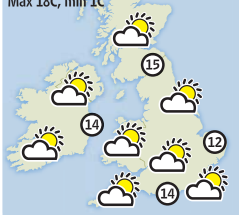
Monday
Rather cloudy with showery rain over England and Wales, heavy at times. Sunny spells and a scattering of showers in Scotland and Ireland.
Max 16C, min 2C



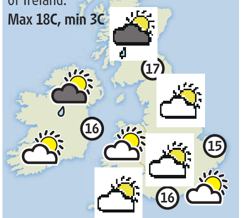
Tuesday
Dry and sunny over southwestern Britain and southwest Ireland. Sunny spells and the risk of an isolated shower across the rest of the British Isles.
Max 17C, min -1C



Wednesday
A dry day with sunny spells and areas of patchy cloud. Some thick cloud in eastern England and eastern Scotland making it feel chilly.
Max 18C, min 1C



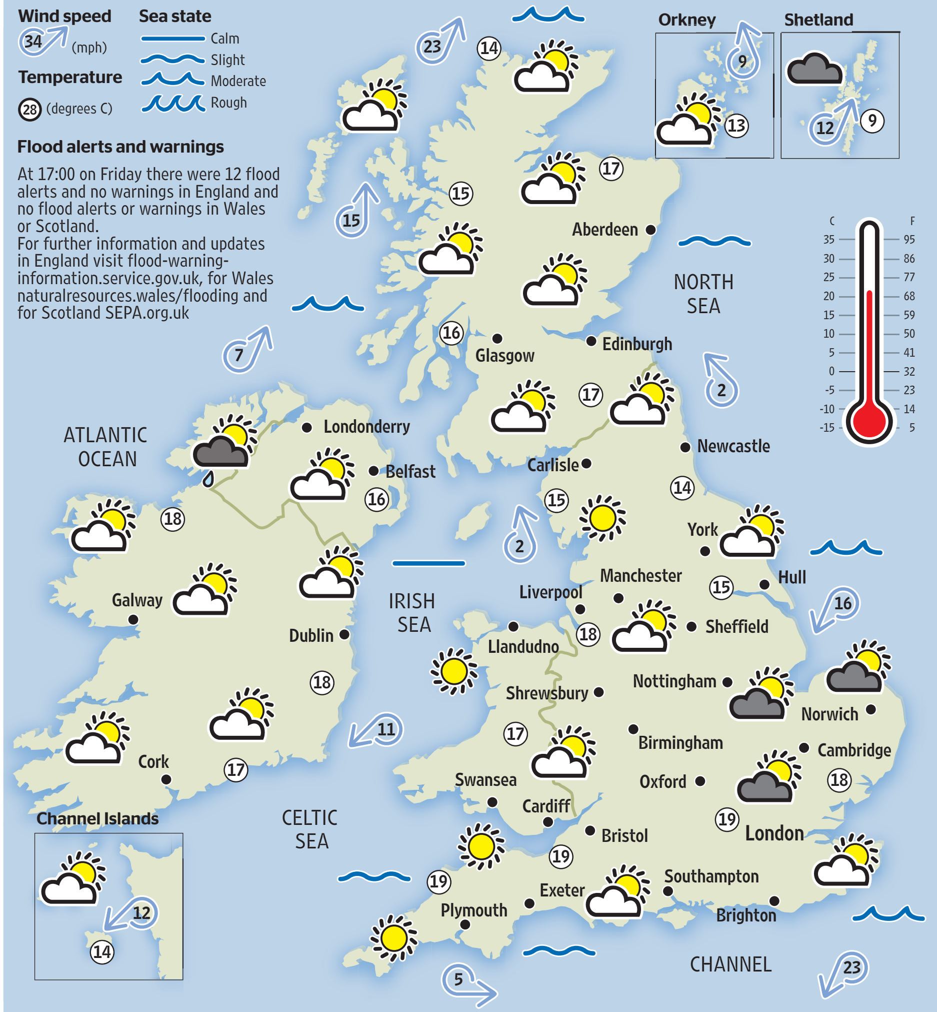
Thursday
A dry day with sunny spells over England, Wales and the south of Ireland. The risk of showers and sunny intervals in Scotland and the north of Ireland.
Max 18C, min 3C



The Times weather page is provided by WeatherQuest

Flood alerts and warnings

At 17:00 on Friday there were 12 flood alerts and no warnings in England and no flood alerts or warnings in Wales or Scotland.
For further information and updates in England visit flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk, for Wales naturalresources.wales/flooding and for Scotland SEPA.org.uk

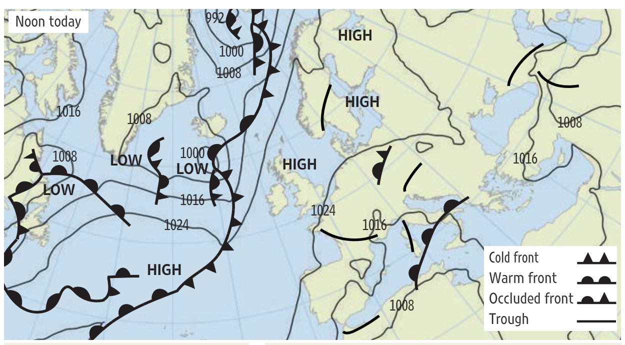


General situation: Any mist, fog or low cloud clearing to bring a dry day with sunny spells. Cloud lingering near some coastal areas.
SE Eng, Cen S Eng, Midlands, NE Eng, Cen N Eng, London: A dry day with cloud clearing in the morning to bring a sunny and warm afternoon. Light north or northeasterly wind. Maximum 20C (68F), minimum 5C (41F).
SW Eng, NW Eng, Wales, Channel Is, IoM, Lake District, Borders: Most places will have a dry day with warm spells of sunshine but the risk of an isolated shower later. Mainly light northerly winds but moderate over the Channel Islands. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 6C (43F).
SW Scotland, Edinburgh and Dundee, Aberdeen, Republic of Ireland, N Ireland: Any mist or fog clearing to bring a mostly dry day with sunny spells but the risk of an isolated shower in the afternoon. Light and variable winds. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 4C (39F).
E Anglia, E Eng: A dry day with cloudy skies in the morning but turning sunny and warm into the afternoon, although cloud lingering near the coast. Light to moderate northerly wind. Maximum 18C (64F), minimum 5C (41F).
Cen Highland, NE Scotland, Argyll, Glasgow, NW Scotland, Moray Firth, N Isles: Any mist or fog patches clearing to bring a dry day with sunny spells. Light to moderate southwesterly wind. Maximum 19C (66F), minimum 5C (41F).

Tides

Tidal predictions.
Heights in metres

Today		Ht		Ht
Aberdeen	08:17	3.5	21:29	3.5
Avonmouth	01:29	10.4	14:17	10.1
Belfast	05:44	3.1	18:56	2.9
Cardiff	01:22	9.8	14:05	9.5
Devonport	--:--	--	13:03	4.3
Dover	06:11	5.5	18:39	5.6
Dublin	05:10	4.8	18:12	4.6
Falmouth	--:--	--	12:39	4.0
Greenock	06:32	3.0	19:49	2.8
Harwich	06:32	3.4	18:55	3.2
Holyhead	05:10	4.8	18:18	4.5
Hull	01:07	5.9	13:11	6.1
Leith	09:31	4.6	22:30	4.7
Liverpool	05:57	7.9	18:46	7.6
London Bridge	08:33	6.2	21:02	5.8
Lowestoft	05:00	2.2	16:16	2.2
Milford Haven	--:--	--	13:30	5.4
Morecambe	06:11	7.8	19:00	7.4
Newhaven	05:50	5.4	18:41	5.5
Newquay	--:--	--	12:29	5.4
Oban	--:--	--	13:49	2.7
Penzance	--:--	--	12:04	4.3
Portsmouth	06:23	3.9	19:21	4.1
Shoreham	05:57	4.9	18:52	5.1
Southampton	05:09	3.7	18:04	3.9
Swansea	--:--	--	13:34	7.3
Tees	10:37	4.6	23:45	4.6
Weymouth	--:--	--	14:11	1.3



Synoptic situation

An area of high pressure will bring a generally dry and sunny day across the British Isles, although cloud increasing over Ireland and Scotland later as a cold front moves in from the Atlantic. Low pressure near Iceland will push a cold front across Britain and Ireland tomorrow and on Monday bringing cloudy skies and showery rain.

Highs and lows

24hrs to 5pm yesterday

Warmest: Usk, Gwent, 20.2C
Coldest: Shap, 1.9C
Wettest: Monks Wood, Cambridgeshire, 31.8mm
Sunniest: Jersey, 8.1hrs*

Sun and moon

For Greenwich
Sun rises: 05.11
Sun sets: 20.41
Moon rises: 03.15
Moon sets: 12.52
New moon: May 19

Hours of darkness

Aberdeen	21:46-04:21
Belfast	21:48-04:49
Birmingham	21:23-04:43
Cardiff	21:24-04:52
Exeter	21:22-04:56
Glasgow	21:48-04:36
Liverpool	21:31-04:43
London	21:11-04:40
Manchester	21:28-04:40
Newcastle	21:33-04:30
Norwich	21:10-04:29
Penzance	21:28-05:07
Sheffield	21:25-04:37

Weather Eye

Paul Simons



'Here we go gathering nuts in May/ On a cold and frosty morning." So goes the old children's rhyme, although its exact meaning has become lost. Did it warn of frosts in May? And what sort of nuts can be gathered in May?

The Times posed these questions 100 years ago: "We have been in receipt of more letters from the learned and the ingenious on the meaning of these simple words than we have been able to print." One correspondent was the principal of King's College, who wrote that the nuts were pig-nuts, although other readers said that "nuts" was a corruption of "knots", the blossom of hawthorns gathered for May Day celebrations.

As for a "cold and frosty morning", that was no great surprise. "A chilly May, especially the first of May, is common enough," explained The Times. And perhaps that was the root of another folklore saying: "So many mists in March, so many frosts in May."

Folklore also warned that mid-May was especially risky for frost. This was blamed on the Ice Saints, Mamertus, Pancras and Servatius, who are commemorated on May 11, 12 and 13 respectively, when cold and even frosty weather can suddenly strike and deal a blow to tender garden plants.

This regular cold spell was evident during the 20th century, with a sharp cold trend between May 10 and 20 in almost 60 of those 100 years. The fickle British climate is rarely so predictable, so perhaps it was no surprise that it should have become enshrined in ancient weather lore, in this country as much as throughout Europe.

One striking example was in May 2010, when widespread frost struck. On May 9 of that year snow showers reached the Northern Isles and on the day of St Mamertus, May 11, snow was reported as far south as Sunderland. St Pancras's Day dawned with temperatures inland widely below freezing, reaching minus 4.6C at Loch Glascarnoch in the Highlands.

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Obituaries

Sir Basil Markesinis

Flamboyant scholar of comparative law, author of 50 books and barrister

Diminutive in stature, Basil Markesinis was nonetheless flamboyant in style. Invited to create an Institute of Global Law at University College London, he went to the dean of the law school and announced he would need to take over the dean's own office — and all others on that floor. Such was the space he felt was required for this grandiose venture. His bid was resisted, and feathers were duly ruffled. As one academic harrumphed: "He was expansionist to an alarming degree."

The incident was telling, reflecting as it did Markesinis's ambition, chutzpah and bold modus operandi.

Not only did he establish himself as a world-renowned scholar of comparative law, the author of some 50 books, founder of three departments or institutes of comparative law in the UK — at Queen Mary University of London, at Oxford and at UCL — he was also tipped at one time to become prime minister of Greece.

And yet, as a Greek by birth and temperament, he remained something of an outsider and one not always appreciated by his English colleagues. Throughout his career, relations with fellow academics could be fraught. "Everywhere he went," a colleague said, "it seemed to end in tears."

Another added: "He was complex, not a team player. He was opinionated, with strong likes and dislikes, both of people and of views. And he was highly sensitive — he would imagine conspiracies against him."

When at Oxford, for instance, where in 1995 he set up the Institute of European and Comparative Law, he finally left after a trivial dispute in which the authorities had failed to give him a parking permit.

A cosmopolitan and cultural polymath, Markesinis spoke four languages, won numerous awards and held several chairs in European and comparative law. Alongside this scholarship, his strength lay in fundraising, initially at a time when such an entrepreneurial approach was frowned upon by universities. "He was brilliant at developing international networks and moved in the highest circles … you would go with him to Paris and meet the president, the prime minister and judges in the Conseil d'État," a colleague recalled. The result, through sheer force of personality, was to bring in millions of pounds for British academic institutions.

Against the prevailing ethos of (sometimes false) modesty in academia, he did not hesitate to proclaim his achievements, prompting inevitable jealousy. One fellow academic recalled how, on recounting the year's events at his institute at Oxford he spoke of a visit to Rome, in which he had met the Italian prime minister and president. One listener interrupted to say: "But surely, Basil, you must also have had breakfast with the Pope."

For all that, he would go out of his way to support students and friends. When Tom Bingham, later senior law lord and lord chief justice, was wrestling with the complexities of a banking inquiry in the Treasury Solicitor's Department in 1992, Markesinis thought he might appreciate some Greek olive oil — and arranged for a former pupil, who was working in the department, to deliver a tin of it, wrapped in a Greek newspaper. Basil Markesinis was born in 1944 in German-occupied Athens into a political household, and always retained a love of politics: his father, Spyridon (Spyros), a Greek of Venetian ancestry, was a lawyer and politician and later briefly prime minister when the junta unsuccessfully sought to project democratic respectability in its declining years. His mother, Ieta (née Xydis), was born in Britain, to which her family had escaped in the 1820s.

Markesinis attended law school at the University of Athens at 15, graduating aged 19. At 21 he became an assistant professor of law. He took a doctorate in Paris and then another at Cambridge, where he was a Gulbenkian research fellow at Churchill College from 1970 to 1974. He was called to the Bar by Gray's Inn in 1973.

It was at Cambridge that he met his future wife Eugenie, who was reading modern languages. Athens society was small and their parents were friends, both belonging to a circle of those who had been English-educated. They married in 1970; she survives him with their two children, Spyro, a lawyer, and Julietta, who works at an advice bureau.

TIMES PHOTOGRAPHER RICHARD POHLE



Markesinis went to law school at 15

Markesinis stayed at Cambridge as a fellow of Trinity College and university lecturer until 1986, when he was lured by Professor Roy Goode to the less obviously attractive surroundings of east London, becoming Denning professor of comparative law at Queen Mary College (now Queen Mary University London) and deputy director of its Centre for Commercial Studies. It was an inspired move that put comparative law on the academic map.

He then spent two years as professor of European private law at UCL, moving in 1995 to Oxford as Clifford Chance professor of European law, and founder director of the Centre (now Institute) of European and Comparative Law.

His career was notable for its breadth as well as depth: from 1999 he was professor of comparative law, with fellowships at Lady Margaret Hall and Brasenose in Oxford, returning to UCL in 2001 as professor of common law and civil law, when he set up the Institute of Global Law.

He held many visiting professorships in Europe and the US, and was founder director of the Institute of Anglo-American Law at Leiden University in the Netherlands. He worked as an advocate to the Greek Supreme Court, adviser to the president of the French Court of Cassation and senior adviser on European affairs to the City law firm Clifford Chance. He was also Jamail Regents' professor of law at the University of Texas, Austin, from 1998 to 2014, where he set up the Institute of Transnational Law.

In his lifetime, honours were showered upon him — he received honorary degrees from Cambridge, Gent, Oxford, Paris, Munich and Athens; he was appointed Commander of the French Légion d'honneur; holder of the Knight Grand Cross of the Orders of Merit of France and Italy and Knight Commander of Germany and of the Greek Order of Honour; he was a Bencher of Gray's Inn and made honorary Queen's Counsel; and he was knighted by Elizabeth II in 2005.

Markesinis's writing was prolific and included works on comparative law, the standard text book on English tort (with Simon Deakin) and works on German contract law. He had influence also on law as it was made, such as the House of Lords' Fairchild judgment of 2002, when the law lords allowed the widow of an asbestos worker to sue any one of several former employers without needing to prove which was responsible for her husband's death. The law lords drew on continental concepts, following Markesinis's studies of German law.

'He made it clear that to live large in this world was a necessity'

The majority House of Lords decision in White v Jones (1995), in which a solicitor was held liable for loss caused to an intended beneficiary under a will through his failure to draw up the will in time, was also influenced by his work on German law.

He wrote regularly on politics, including on Greek foreign policy. In later years he turned to cultural subjects, with many books on art, literature, and Ancient Greek culture, including *Good and Evil in Art and Law* and *Odysseus and Homer*, until poor health caught up with him.

He will perhaps be most remembered enjoying the sheer pleasure of live discourse. A Texas colleague recalled him holding court in the garden of the Four Seasons Hotel in Austin: "You couldn't but learn from him. He was delightful, piping voice and all — and his conversational style was infectious. He made it clear that to live large in this compelling interesting world wasn't a right or a privilege. It was a necessity."

Professor Sir Basil Markesinis, scholar, writer and polymath, was born on July 10, 1944. He died of pneumonia arising from complications of Parkinsonism on April 23, 2023, aged 78



Pamela Timmins

Reliable press secretary to Jackie Kennedy who bore an uncanny resemblance to her boss

Jackie Kennedy had a clear vision for her White House media strategy. The new American first lady wanted "minimum information given with maximum politeness", she instructed her press secretary in a memo after the election of John F Kennedy in 1960.

"I have suddenly realised what it means to completely lose one's privacy," she added. "I feel so strongly that publicity in this era has gotten completely out of hand — and you must really protect the privacy of me and my children, but not offend [journalists] … you will be there as a buffer."



Selected for the privileged but demanding position was 23-year-old Pamela Turnure, as she was then known. Slim, dark-haired and suitably discreet, Turnure bore a resemblance to her boss and was also a New Yorker from a privileged background. She had minimal media experience but was a trusted aide to the Kennedy family and soon honed the requisite firm-but-friendly style.

Though presidents had long employed press secretaries, hiring one on a full-time basis to assist a first lady was a novel idea that reflected the evolution of the media landscape and a particular fascination with the glamorous and image-conscious Kennedy family.

Turnure fielded calls from reporters, formed strategies for public appearances and interviews and arranged for staff and volunteers to handle Jackie's mail, which often amounted to thousands of letters each week. She discussed guest lists for White House functions with the president and first lady and dealt with unexpected dramas, including frantic last-minute costume alterations for a dance troupe

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ALAMY; SLIM AARONS/GETTY IMAGES; AP



when it was decided that their dresses were too racy for a performance in front of the guest of honour, Haile Selassie, the emperor of Ethiopia.

"She answers every question exactly as I would," Jackie wrote to a friend in 1962. "I know she will do it correctly — so we don't even communicate for weeks on end."

Turnure spent days in hospital with Jackie when Jackie's son, Patrick, died 39 hours after his premature birth in August 1963. "For the first time the inner life of the family became terribly open to the world," Turnure recalled in a 1964 oral history.

Tragedy struck again three months later. The press secretary worked on a speech for Jackie before the Kennedys' trip to Texas. She discussed the arrangements with the president, who voiced concern that wind might disturb his wife's hair during their motorcade through Dallas. "He wanted her to look her best," Turnure said in the oral history. She pointed out that the presidential limousine had a removable plastic roof for use in bad weather.

"I suggested the bubble top and just immediately he said, 'No, that's semi-satisfactory, if you're going out to see the people, then they should be able to see you,' and so I don't think it was ever considered by him at any point," she said. The covering was not bulletproof, though some have speculated it might have discouraged Lee Harvey Oswald from pulling the trigger.

Turnure was on Air Force One when Lyndon B Johnson was sworn in as president after the assassination. She remembered being astonished by Jackie's poise and lucidity during planning for the funeral.

"Considering the emotional state she was in, I mean, she was thinking of all sorts of details and other people, instead of waiting to be told by somebody what should be the next step," Turnure said. "When the time came for some important decision that only she could make, she was always available.

"I can remember feeling that I talked to her more in those three days than I probably talked in the last three years. If I didn't call her, she called me to say, 'Did you take care of such and such — is it all right — will we have it?'" she added. "It was extraordinary and she always knew exactly what she wanted."

Pamela Harrison Turnure was born in New York City in 1937, to Lawrence, a Wall Street banker, and the former Louise Gwynn. They divorced when she was a child. Pamela and her older brother, Larry, were then raised by her mother and stepfather, Frederic Drake, the publisher of Harper's Bazaar.

After studying at colleges in New Hampshire and Washington she worked as a receptionist at the Belgian embassy and met John Kennedy, then a Massachusetts senator, in 1957 at the wedding of Jackie's stepsister, Nina Auchincloss. Turnure later worked as an assistant in Kennedy's Washington office and for his presidential campaign.

After the assassination she continued working for Jackie in New York until 1966, when she started an interior

She suggested that the Kennedys use a roof on their fateful trip to Texas

decoration business. That year she married a Montreal-born New York investment banker, Robert Timmins: the reception was held at Jackie Kennedy's Fifth Avenue residence. He died in 1990. Her survivors include three half-siblings. After her husband died, she moved to the mountains of Colorado, where she skied, hiked and worked for community organisations.

Turnure is said to have once dated Aly Khan, a Pakistani diplomat who was a former husband of Rita Hayworth. For years her former landlords tried to convince the world that Turnure had secretly conducted an affair with John Kennedy. In 1958 she rented a room in the Washington home of Leonard and Florence Kater, who said they grew suspicious when they heard the senator throwing pebbles at her window at about 1am.

The Katers began to spy on them, covertly taking photographs and making audio recordings, justifying their behaviour by arguing that as staunch Catholics they were alarmed at the prospect of a philanderer becoming the president.

Florence Kater sent a letter outlining her allegations in 1963 to the FBI director, J Edgar Hoover, and wrote to dozens of news outlets, but there was scant appetite for running the story. Turnure never publicly addressed the claims but her family insisted to The Washington Post that the relationship was purely platonic.

"Pamela had originally been Jack Kennedy's girlfriend," Pierre Salinger, the former White House press secretary, told the biographer C David Heymann. "Jackie knew about it but for some obscure reason never held it against her."

Turnure certainly admired John's personality and intellect. She recalled in 1964 that he "never sat still in a chair. He was always in motion, really. With his quick mind — everything was in motion. He could be talking to someone and you knew he was thinking of a thousand different things.

"He was a very vital person, intensely involved in life and everything that goes on … He was the most selfless person I have ever known."



Timmins in 1961, with Jackie Kennedy in 1962, and in 1960, left. She was once John F Kennedy's "girlfriend"

Pamela Timmins, press secretary to Jackie Kennedy, was born on November 20, 1937. She died of lung cancer on April 25, 2023, aged 85

Seán Keane

Fiddler with the Irish folk band the Chieftains

Seán Keane was working as a telegraph engineer for the Irish post office when the Chieftains were booked to headline at the Royal Albert Hall in London on St Patrick's Day, 1975.

The group had already recorded five albums and had recently completed the soundtrack for Stanley Kubrick's film *Barry Lyndon*, establishing themselves alongside the Dubliners as Ireland's foremost traditional folk group. Yet Keane and his bandmates had kept their day jobs, playing a repertoire of wild jigs, reels and mournful Celtic airs in pubs and clubs, and at festivals, as much for the craic as in expectation of financial reward. True, they had played a concert in New York the previous year, but the visit had to be crammed into a weekend so that members could be back at work on Monday morning. When the promoter Jo Lustig booked them into one of London's most prestigious venues, Keane and the group feared disaster.



Irish traditional music had still to become the global phenomenon that would later result in shows such as *Riverdance* and the Chieftains told the promoter that he was "mad" to think they could fill such a venue.

Lustig then made a fateful bet with Paddy Moloney, the group's leader: if he succeeded in selling out the Albert Hall for them, the Chieftains would turn professional and install him as their manager.

None of the band took the wager seriously, for they could not see any way they were going to sell 6,000 tickets. Yet Lustig's hunch paid dividends and when John Peel came to introduce them on the night, there was not an empty seat in the hall.

"When they play a sad song, it will bring a lump to your throat," Peel told the capacity audience. "And when they play a dance tune you'll have difficulty keeping in your seat."

So it proved and after rapturous encores, Keane rushed out to find a phone box to call his wife, Marie, and tell her of their triumph. He also had to break to her news of the promise Moloney had made on behalf of the group. She did not take kindly to the idea that he should give up a safe and steady job for an uncertain future as a full-time fiddler.

"It was a hell of a decision to make and Marie was stunned by the whole thing. She didn't want me to do it," Keane told John Glatt, the author of a 1997 authorised biography of the group. In the end, a compromise was reached under which he would commit to the Chieftains full time on a three-year trial, after which if they were struggling to make ends meet he would return to his "proper" job.

He never went back to the Post Office and almost half a century later was still playing fiddle with the Chieftains, his final gig with the group coming when they performed for President Biden during his visit to Ireland last month. In the years in between, Keane toured the world with the Chieftains, selling out prestigious concert halls from Los Angeles to Tokyo and recording with Mick Jagger, Tom Jones, Sting, Van Morrison, Madonna and Luciano Pavarotti.

Along with the other five members of the band, he was appointed a cultural ambassador by the Irish government: one of his proudest possessions was a leather despatch case with his name and the honorific title embossed in gold. Throughout it all he remained self-effacing and modest, regarding himself as the custodian of a musical tradition handed down through the generations and which he in turn passed on to his children Páraic, Deirdre and Darach, all of whom are musicians and who survive him. Marie (née Conneally), whom he married in 1969, predeceased him in 2020.

Seán Keane — or Seán Ó Catháin in Irish — was born in 1946 in Dublin, the son of Mary and Patrick Keane, both of whom played fiddle and kept open house to visiting traditional folk musicians who came from all over Ireland to play in the capital.

At the age of five he decided he wanted to be a piper after hearing an uncle playing the uilleann pipes. When his fingers proved to be too small to cover the flute-like holes of the instrument's chanter, he was given a small fiddle instead.

He trained as a classical violinist and won a place at Dublin College of Music, although by his mid-teens he was stopping off after lessons to play with folk musicians, including future members of the Dubliners, at O'Donoghue's Pub in Merrion Row. At 15 he formed the Castle Ceili Band, with his younger brother James on accordion, and was soon playing at Irish traditional music festivals. "Morning, noon and night we'd be boozing and playing until you'd squeezed the last note out of the fiddle and the last drop out of the bottle," he recalled.

Combining a classically trained technical virtuosity with an intuitive understanding of Irish tradition, he was soon winning fiddle competitions and by 1963 had joined Seán Ó Riada's Ceoltoirí Chualann, the most revered traditional Irish folk band of the time and whose line-up also included Moloney.

He joined Moloney in the Chieftains in 1968 and if he had occasional doubts about the direction of some of the group's more pop-orientated crossover records, he cherished the opportunity to take Irish music to a new audience.

"At times I do think 'where the hell are we going next?'. But it's been a journey of delight ever since we started."

Seán Keane, fiddler, was born on July 12, 1946. He died suddenly of undisclosed causes on May 7, 2023, aged 76

Email: obituaries@thetimes.co.uk

Readers' Lives

Marriages and engagements

Wedding planner's own big day arrives

Beth Pryal, 25, a wedding and events co-ordinator, and **Ben Thompson**, 27, a customer services adviser for Yorkshire Water, were married on March 3, 2023, at Sandburn Hall, on the outskirts of York



BETHANY CLARKE

Beth and Ben with their son, Freddie, who was carried up the aisle by her man-of-honour before helping with their rings

Beth enjoys her job as a wedding planner, but, since getting married, she has a newfound empathy for clients. Chasing RSVPs and drawing up table plans were her biggest frustrations. "I can understand why brides and grooms get so stressed," she says.

She married Ben at Sandburn Hall, a hotel and golf course set in 1,000 acres on the outskirts of York, where she has been a wedding and events co-ordinator since 2018. "We did look at other venues," she says. "But I had always thought about how I would have my wedding there."

Beth and Ben met through a dating app. They chatted online for a few months before going on their first date to a bar in Leeds city centre in 2017. She was nervous, and then, as she set off to meet him, her mother arrived home having fallen and bumped her head, making Beth an hour late. Ben thought he had been stood up.

"I thought she looked lovely," he says. It was a cold night and he lent Beth his jacket, which she ended up wearing home. "It was an excuse to see her again," he says. They went on a walk the next day at Temple Newsam Park in Leeds and then started to meet up at weekends, going to the cinema, for dinner and to the seaside.

"I love the way Ben smiles at me and how similar we are in many ways," says Beth. They share a silly sense of humour and are Harry Potter fans. Their first holiday together was to Tenerife. "Ben is a lot more chilled out," she says. They were each living with their parents when they met but stayed with one another during lockdown.

Weddings were on hold and Ben, who worked as crew in the live event industry, was made redundant. "We sat in the garden in the sun enjoying our time together," says Beth. As lockdown eased, they both worked at Sandburn Hall, where the focus of the business was on holiday lodges in the grounds. Ben now works for Yorkshire Water.

Beth had long been dropping hints about marriage but they bought a house first, moving into a new-build in Selby in 2020. Ben chose a ring and planned to propose on Beth's birthday on Christmas Eve 2021. He booked a restaurant in York, but, a few days before, she caught Covid-19.

She was in her pyjamas on her birthday morning and thought she had opened all her presents when he handed her a ring box and went down on one knee.

"I don't know if I gave quite the reaction I normally would have done because I didn't feel my best," she says. She still let out a squeal and cried. Ben had nervously asked Beth's mother and stepfather for their blessing in advance — the first time he had been to their house without Beth. Her mother delivered them Christmas dinner for two, which they ate in isolation.

They had already booked March 3 this year as their wedding date when they discovered that they were going to be parents.

Beth, who is an only child, chose her dress with the help of her mother before her bump began to show.

Their son, Freddie, was born in August last year, and Beth was on maternity leave when she got married. Freddie wore a bow tie and waistcoat for his parents' big day, and was carried up the aisle by Beth's man-of-honour, Ryan, who has been her friend since high school. "He won't remember any of it," says Ben. "But we can show him the pictures."

Burnt orange was the starting point for Beth's colour scheme. She mixed dried and fresh flowers. Her six bridesmaids wore navy. Ben's best man was his younger brother.

Beth walked into the grand function hall on the arm of her stepfather to Kodaline's *The One* in front of 90 guests. It was only then that she started to feel nervous and walked so fast that her stepfather struggled to keep up.

Freddie handed over the rings with assistance. Beth and Ben wanted to keep the ceremony short and walked out to Queen's *Crazy Little Thing Called Love*. After a drinks reception and sit-down wedding breakfast, they had their first dance to Nat King Cole's *L-O-V-E*. "We're not really natural dancers," says Beth. "I laughed all the way through."

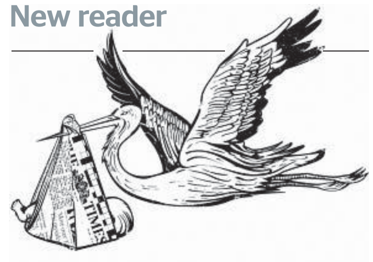
Even though clients had told her what to expect, she echoes the familiar sentiment: "It all goes so fast." Freddie will not be joining them on honeymoon in Corfu this summer, but they are glad that he was part of their wedding.

"Beth means the world to me," says Ben. "She's a wonderful mother and the best wife any man could wish for. I can't wait to spend the rest of our lives together making many more memories."

If you would like to feature a wedding or engagement or the birth of a child on these pages, call 020 7782 5583, Mon-Fri, to discuss the content and cost, or email: readerslives@thetimes.co.uk

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New reader



Aurora Texas de Patoul was born on October 11, 2022, at St Mary's Paddington, west London, to **Katrina Kutchinsky**, 41, and **Hadrien de Patoul**, 38



Biggie, Katrina and Hadrien's miniature schnauzer, has had some reservations about Aurora's arrival into the family. "Aurora would like Biggie to be her best friend," says Katrina. "Biggie isn't so sure he wants to be displaced as the first-born, but he's dealing with it very well."

Her first few months in the world have been so busy that she's had little time to notice. There have been "monkey music" classes and swimming lessons, and Aurora has started to take a keener interest in making friends with other babies. One, however, "wasn't so interested and I had to teach Aurora that rejection happens sometimes", jokes Katrina.

Still, it does not seem to faze Aurora all that much. She is "incredibly smiley and calm, and she loves her sleep. She's also recently entered her giggling phase, which has been a lot of fun."

With her round, blue eyes she already resembles her dad, who is half-Italian and half-Belgian. Aurora was always his favourite girl's name but it has added significance because Katrina's mother lives on the northeast coast of Scotland and they are occasionally able to watch the aurora borealis from her window. Her middle name, Texas, on the other hand, is a nod to the US state in which Aurora was conceived. "It was actually in Austin, but that wouldn't be a great name, would it?" says Katrina. "Thank God it wasn't Skegness," she adds.

Aurora is already a well travelled baby. She's been to Mauritius and Sri Lanka, and a few months ago was in Paris dancing with her parents at the Brasserie Lipp restaurant.

"She's definitely got a spirit of curiosity and adventure," says Katrina, who adds that she would like Aurora to grow up with a strong sense of identity in a "polarised" world. "I don't want her to be image-conscious or obsessed with how she projects herself," she says. "At the end of the day, I just want her to be happy."

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'He'll be shouting for Ireland in the rugby but England in the cricket'

CILLIAN FRANCIS DUNKLEY WAS BORN ON DECEMBER 19, 2022, AT PETERBOROUGH CITY HOSPITAL IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE TO KATE WALSH AND JAMIE DUNKLEY

Call 020 7782 5583 or email readerslives@thetimes.co.uk

THE TIMES

Remembering loved ones

Engineer who oversaw top bridge project in Bangladesh

Jasim Ahmed, 78

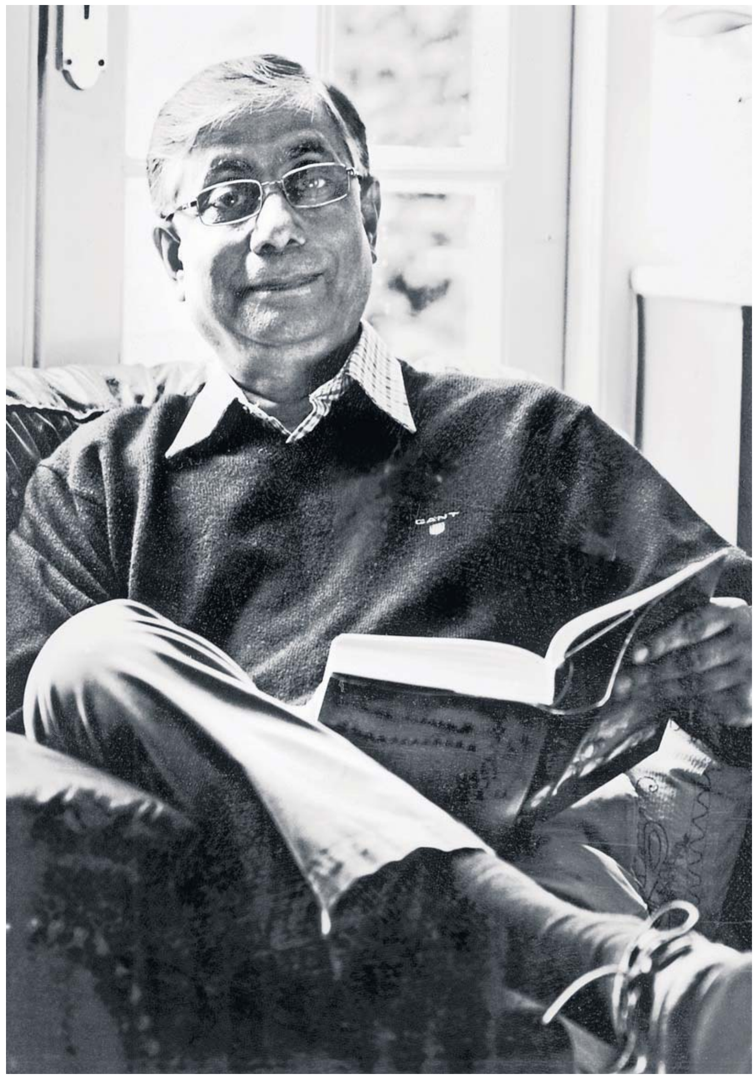
Jasim Ahmed was 13 years old when his father died, leaving him, as the eldest son, to look after his six siblings as well as run the family public transport business in a rural part of northeast Bangladesh. The sense of responsibility that Jasim assumed in his care for others and in his early exposure to business operations would lay the foundation of a lifelong work ethic in his contribution to civil engineering.

For more than 30 years Jasim worked as a hydrological engineer for the Halcrow Group, a multinational engineering consultancy that dealt with transportation, water, maritime and property. The projects to which he was assigned — largely the construction of bridges and dams — were spread across the world, from Indonesia and South Africa to the Middle East, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jasim's drive, conscientiousness, diplomatic skills and expertise were noticed by the company and he quickly rose up the ranks. Initially based in London, in the late 1970s he moved with his family to Indonesia, before returning to Bangladesh in 1981 with a view to exploring opportunities for the firm in the region. In 1987, he was promoted to managing director and chief executive officer of Halcrow's Asia-Pacific region and for the next two decades was involved in expanding the business in Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, India, Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. The projects in which Halcrow was involved in the region coincided with, and contributed to, the industrialisation of countries that would come to be known as the Asian tigers.



Among the projects under Jasim's remit was the construction of the Bangabandhu Bridge, a long-awaited solution to getting across the six-mile wide Jamuna river in Bangladesh, from Bhuapur on its east bank to Sirajganj on its west. Until then passengers and freight were forced to rely on ferry services. The project took four years at a cost of more than $1 billion. When it was opened in 1998, the bridge stretched for more than three miles, and was the 11th longest in the world. Four years later, in 2002, Jasim was appointed OBE for services to British commercial interests in Asia.



Jasim Ahmed rose to be the chief executive of Halcrow's Asia-Pacific region. Below left, receiving his OBE for services in Asia at Buckingham Palace in 2002

Jasim was born in 1944 to Rahima Khatun and Jamir Uddin Ahmed and was raised near Sylhet, where tea plantations were the mainstay of the local economy. At the age of 18 he travelled south to study civil engineering at the East Pakistan University of Engineering and Technology in Dhaka. His first job upon graduating four years later was to join the East Pakistan Water Pollution Control Board, where he specialised in hydrological engineering. His tenure at the water board coincided with the Bangladesh Liberation War of 1971, the bloody revolution triggered by the Bengali national movement in east Pakistan, which led to the independence of Bangladesh. The militaristic practices of staff inspections at the water board and harsh treatment of any type of absenteeism created widespread fear among the staff. It may have been one of the reasons Jasim rarely took time off work — nor any sick days for the entirety of his professional career. For his master's degree Jasim won a scholarship to the Delft University of Technology in the Netherlands, a country adept at building bridges and dams. There he further focused his expertise in hydrological engineering while based in the Hague. A year later he moved to London to work for the Halcrow Group. For the rest of his life, he would support his mother and siblings in Bangladesh in any way that he could.

In 1970, Jasim married Tarefa Choudhury, a history student whose family had been tragically affected by the Liberation War. The birth of their first child, Adnan, coincided with Jasim's master's, and Tarefa and Adnan stayed behind in Bangladesh while he studied in the Netherlands and then moved with him to Britain. Adnan went on to become a policy lead with the Financial Conduct Authority. Two more sons followed: Adeeb, who is a managing director at a hedge fund in London, and Zafeer, a senior executive at a British fintech company, living in Amsterdam.

In the later stages of his career in Britain, Jasim assumed a series of directorships with engineering companies in India and ran his own consultancy. Guided by a straightforward approach to life with a healthy awareness of the importance of staying fit despite long working hours, Jasim was a committed runner, and enjoyed playing badminton and cricket, among other sports. He also liked to entertain and, with his wife, threw lively parties from Dhaka to London. He was a family man, who enjoyed watching football and *Star Wars* with his sons and six grandchildren.

What preoccupied Jasim was current affairs, politics and history. He had, after all, lived through momentous events of the 20th century, including Indian independence from British rule and the Liberation War.

He was a progressive thinker, warm, thoughtful and deliberate, who rarely spoke, preferring to allow others to take the floor before making one of his own, typically perspicacious, comments.

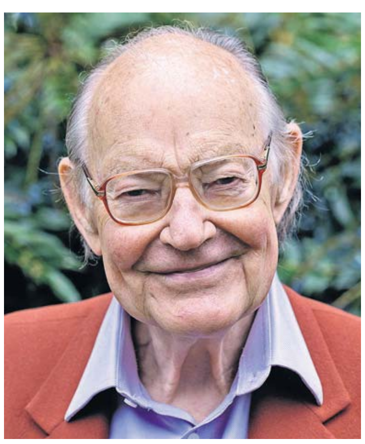
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thetimes.co.uk/static/terms-and-conditions

Civil servant in touch with Thatcher during Iranian embassy siege

Sir Robert Andrew, 94

Robert Andrew was the deputy permanent secretary at the Home Office under Willie Whitelaw at the time of the Iranian embassy siege in 1980. Twenty-six people were taken hostage and by day six it was decided that the Special Air Service should be sent in. It fell to Robert to let the prime minister know what was happening. Margaret Thatcher was at Chequers but Whitelaw pressed upon Robert that there was no need for her to come up to London. When the phone was picked up, Robert was asked, "Is it urgent? The prime minister is under the hairdryer," a position that she held while he filled her in.

A gift for equanimity stood Robert in good stead and four years later he was made the permanent secretary in the Northern Ireland office under Douglas Hurd. Dividing his time between London and Belfast, he went along with increased security arrangements that included a lock on the catflap at his family home in Wimbledon. A letter bomb addressed to the home was intercepted by the local post office. In Belfast he only half-joked that he was doing his job properly only when he was equally reviled by both sides of the conflict. A figure of integrity and intelligence, he played a part in the signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement in 1985. The following year he was made a knight of the Order of the Bath.



Sir Robert Andrew in Wimbledon, 2016

Robert was born in 1928 and raised on a farm in Walton-on-the-Hill, Surrey, that belonged to the chairman of Coutts but was managed by his father, Robert, and his mother, Elsie (née Heritage).

The cottage boasted a single tap and no electricity and when the farm was eventually wired up it was only the milking shed that benefited.

Robert won a Surrey scholarship to King's College, Wimbledon, a two-hour journey from home. He would later spend 25 years as a governor of the school, ten years as chairman, and was as concerned for the balance of the curriculum as he was about the pastoral care of the pupils.

Robert left King's to do his National Service in the intelligence corps, based in Trieste, where he formed a taste for Italian culture. He returned to Britain to study modern history at Merton College, Oxford, and in a foretaste of the impartiality required of him by the civil service chose to join each of the Conservative, Labour and Liberal clubs.

His first position in the civil service was in the War Office, where he was based in Cairo, Paris and at Nato in Brussels. In 1963, he married Elizabeth Bayley, who worked in public relations and was subsequently a psychotherapist and chairwoman of the Prisoners' Education Trust, and they raised two sons: Christopher, a lawyer, and John, a tax consultant who predeceased Robert last year.

Commended in 1968 for answering the phone on its first ring at 3am to be told of the Soviet invasion of what was then Czechoslovakia, Robert had to admit it was because he was up feeding his baby, John. Elizabeth predeceased him in 2018.

In 1970, he was made private secretary to Lord Carrington, the defence secretary, who later appointed him to the role of conservator of Wimbledon and Putney Commons, where Robert and his family lived. It was a role he would perform for 37 years, appreciated for his ability to listen quietly during heated debates before quietly adding, "If I may suggest …" and providing a sensible solution. He was also the director of the Esmée Fairburn Foundation, chairman of the council of Royal Holloway and a trustee of Children in Need.

In retirement Robert travelled and pursued the woodworking he had enjoyed since his twenties, when he built a couple of wooden dinghies, and fitted out the entire interior of a canal boat that he kept at Teddington.

Register

Births, Marriages and Deaths

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FOR God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through him. John 3.17 (ESV)

Bible verses are provided by the Bible Society

Births

AMLANI on 23rd April 2023 to Sorraya (née Lalani) and Ilyas, a son, Iyssa Nazmin, born at The Portland Hospital, London.

CHRISTIE on 8th May 2023 to Maria Kennedy and Ewen, a daughter, Zelda Serafima Kennedy.

CLODE
on 13th April 2023 to Holly and Simon, a daughter, Ella Maria, sister to Max.

OLADEJI-WEST on 9th May 2023 to Charlotte (née West) and Oluwatomisin Ayodeji, a son, Philostrate (Philo) Frances Eniola.

PERSCHKE
on 26th April 2023 to Liza (née Kiggin) and Jack, a son, Axel Edwin Alderson, brother to Liberty, Hero and Phineas.

WARNES on 27th April 2023 to Maxine (née Petty) and Anthony, a daughter, Eva, at 4.41am, weighing 8lb 12oz.

Forthcoming Marriages

MR C. B. GOODMAN AND MISS A. E. J. HATTON
The engagement is announced between Charlie, son of Mr Simon Goodman and Dr Moira Sutcliffe of Westbury Park, Bristol, and Amy, elder daughter of Dr Katharine Hatton of Almondsbury, South Gloucestershire.

MR W. P. J. TREADWELL AND MISS E. C. SHEPHERD-BARRON
The engagement is announced between Will, son of Mr and Mrs John Treadwell of Putney, London, and Mily, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Shepherd-Barron of Leigh, Kent.

Deaths

BLOW Catherine Ann died on 4th April 2023, aged 62, after a long illness. Catherine was a talented artist whose promising career was cut tragically short by the onset of Huntington's disease. Private funeral at Hilles, the family home in Gloucestershire. Please send donations to the Huntington's Disease Association.

BULLOUGH John Louis MBE, of Culcreuch, on 5th May 2023, aged 54. Born 2nd April 1969, died unexpectedly but peacefully. Much-loved husband of Georgina and father of Hercules, son of Michael and Sandra Bullough, brother of Debbie Cave and Victoria Pembroke. The funeral service will be held at St John's Kirk, Perth, on Friday 26th May at 2.30pm. If you plan to attend, please email: rsvp@bullough.info

CARSWELL Robert Douglas, the Right Honourable the Lord Carswell of Killeen, died peacefully at home on 4th May 2023, aged 88. Much-loved husband of Romayne, father and grandfather. Funeral for immediate family only. Memorial service later in the year.

CLAYTON Hugh Thomas Byard (Tom) died peacefully on 22nd April 2023, aged 96. Loving and loved husband of Angela, father of Philip (and Amy) and Stuart, and grandfather of Ava. Last surviving child of the late Sir Hugh and Lady Clayton (née Nepean). Funeral will be held at St Paul's Church, Wimbledon Parkside, on 25th May at 2pm, with refreshments afterwards. No flowers please but donations if desired to St Paul's Church.

CRABTREE Julia Frances died peacefully at home in Bath, Somerset, on the 28th April 2023, aged 75. For more details contact Clarkson's Independent Funeral Directors, Bath. Tel: 01225 426822.

DANA Michael Edmund Kinnaird on 1st May 2023, aged 77, died suddenly after mowing the lawn. Dearly loved husband to Sarah, father to Emily, Olivia and Richard, and adored Barbar to Jack, Poppy, Alex, George, Benji, Margaux and Delphine. Peace be with you.

DOBBINS Brian Neil, of Ealing, Coventry, Nottingham and latterly Dorset, died peacefully on 6th May 2023, aged 69, surrounded by family. Beloved and deeply missed husband to Helen, father to Alex, Sara and Chris, and adored grandfather to six. Much-loved brother, uncle and friend. Memorial service to be held at Church of St Candida & Holy Cross, Whitchurch Canonicorum on Monday 22nd May at 2.30pm.

FOX
Our dearly beloved mother Joscelyn Fox will be laid to rest at Edgewarebury Cemetery this Sunday 14th May at 11am. Prayers later at 7pm at her home. All who knew her are most welcome. Jacqui and Gerald.

GREENHALGH David Neil, retired master mariner and marine pilot, with a love of travel and happiest at sea, died peacefully on April 17th, aged 84, on the exotic Windward Island of Tahiti, French Polynesia. David has joined his late siblings Charles and Vivien (Figgy). David's loss will be mourned by his sister Sandra (Sandie), son Simon, daughter-in-law Linda, and grandsons Ashley and Justin, and his extended family of brother-in-law Gordon, sister-in-law Helene, and Suzanne.

HAMBLETON Kenneth George on 4th May 2023, aged 86. Dearly loved husband of Glenys, father to Neil and Lindsey and grandfather to Jack.

HOLDER John Charles Cumming, peacefully on 27th April, 2023, aged 92. Beloved husband of Joanna, father of Charlotte, Henrietta and Charles, and grandfather of Julia, Hugh, Beatrix, Nell and Thoma. Private funeral. Service of thanksgiving at St Peter's Church, Diddlebury, Shropshire, SY7 9DH, on Friday 7th July at 2pm.

INNES OF LEARNEY Thomas, sadly but peacefully on Friday 28th April 2023 at Alastrean Care Home, aged 93. Devoted husband to the late Rosemary and much-loved father and grandfather. His funeral service will be held at Mid Deeside Church, Torphins, on Monday 29th May at 11am followed by a private interment. Family flowers only please.

MCBAIN Captain John Hubert McBain, of Westholme, Winston, died on 2nd May, aged 86. Husband of Ann, father and grandfather. A private committal will take place on Friday 26th May at 12.30pm, followed by the funeral at St Andrew's Church, Winston, at 3pm.

MCGRATH Michael Edward died peacefully at home in Daventry on 7th May 2023, aged 81. Beloved husband to Patricia, wonderful father to Michael, Sean, Casey and Ryan, and adored grandfather. He will be greatly missed by all who knew him. Cremation at Rainsbrook, Rugby, on Wednesday 31st May at 11am.

MEAKIN
Sarah Louise (Sas) (née Vaughan-Lane) passed away on 8th May 2023, aged 52. Much-loved wife of Tim and loving mother of Lauren, Jack and Evie. Fantastic daughter to Dorothy and Tim, and loving sister to Jayne. As a friend to many she will be very sadly missed. She will be for ever in our thoughts and in our hearts. A memorial service and celebration of her life will be held at a later date.

PARAMOR Roger CBE QFSM FIFireE, died peacefully on 30th April 2023, aged 84. A memorial service is to be held at 3.30pm on 2nd June at West Mersea Lifeboat Station.

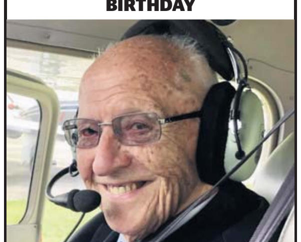
SIMPSON Lt Col John Patrick Waller (Pat), retired Royal Engineers, died on 6th May 2023, aged 84. Dearly loved husband of Tonia, beloved father of Toby and David, much-loved grandfather and brother. Private funeral.

THOMPSON Jack Francis passed away peacefully on 5th May 2023, aged 81, at Wokingham Community Hospital. Loving father to Gary, Georgina and Alexis, father-in-law to Robert, Judith and Cristina, and grandfather to Oliver, Francesca, Chantal, Kristina, Elena, Luis and Olivia. RIP.

WELSH
Frank died peacefully on 23rd April 2023, aged 91. Historian, man of commerce, literary figure, nautical enthusiast and beloved father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Birthdays

GERALD CHUGG ON HIS 100TH BIRTHDAY



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Court Circular

St James's Palace
12th May, 2023
The Princess Royal this morning visited St Hilaire Avenue, Coleford, to mark the town's twinning with Saint-Hilaire-de-Riez in France and was received by Mr Roger Deeks (Vice Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited AccXel Construction Skills Accelerator Centre, Whimsey Industrial Estate, Steam Mills Road, Cinderford, and was received by Mrs Diane Savory (Deputy Lieutenant of Gloucestershire).

Kensington Palace
12th May, 2023
The Duchess of Gloucester this morning officially opened the Queen Elizabeth II Staff Covid Recovery Garden at St Peter's Hospital, Guildford Road, Chertsey, to mark International Nurses Day and was received by His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Surrey (Mr Michael More-Molyneux).

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I see Julian of Norwich as a gifted, tenacious journalist

Credo
Margaret Coles



A mid a worldwide miasma of lies, "alternative facts" and obfuscation, who can we trust to tell us the truth? Whose are the voices that report faithfully from the front line of life?

Monday marked 650 years since the medieval mystic Julian of Norwich was given a message "for all the world". It was reported with integrity and kept safe down the years because, according to the late medievalist Sr Benedicta Ward, it was intended specifically for our time.

On May 8, 1373, Julian, one of the most beloved English mystics, received visions of the Crucifixion. She pondered the meaning of the visions for some 40 years, living as an anchoress, or hermit, in a cell at the side of St Julian's Church. She set out her understanding of all that she had been shown in her spiritual classic, *Revelations of Divine Love*.

It was a dangerous and perforce secret mission. While the punitive medieval church was preaching sin, punishment, purgatory and hellfire, Julian was writing about God's unconditional love and merciful compassion. She wrote that God was never angry, that he looked upon his darling children "with pity, not with blame", had forgiven us for all wrongdoing, past, present and future, and was forever coming towards us with his mercy and love.

Julian knew full well the risk she was taking. Had she been discovered she would have had to recant or be burnt at the stake. The nauseating, putrid smell of "heretics" being put to death at nearby Mousehold Heath was a constant reminder.

I see Julian as a brilliant journalist — the best of her kind — with the integrity to risk her life for the story, as do the brave journalists who report from war zones. Today we mourn the death of Arman Soldin, 32, the latest journalist killed in the Ukraine war.

Julian is a reliable witness, a diligent fact-checker who had the temerity to say, at a press conference with God, "Sorry, I didn't quite get that point. Would you mind clarifying it?"

Add to her extraordinary courage and integrity an adherence to the highest standards of journalism, a thoroughness and rigorous attention to detail, her painstaking efforts to describe precisely what she was shown, as though searching through a thesaurus to locate the exact word, understanding that every detail counted. She has the observant eye of a writer who reports clearly the truth of what she has seen.

Unwavering in her dedication, she confronted the toughest questions, uncompromising in getting to grips with the puzzling and sometimes disturbing knowledge entrusted to her — deep, mysterious themes that take some unravelling.

What was she to make of "sin is behoovable", which can be translated as "appropriate" or "necessary", and "sin shall be a glory"? She supported the church's condemnation of sin, of course; yet she wrote it all down faithfully. In the best tradition of journalism, she would not fudge the facts to fit an editorial line.

The answer to the conundrum, she discovered, is that the pain caused by sin can be turned to profit by becoming a source of self-knowledge and humility and an acceptance of God's forgiveness and love.

Julian is what a former head of the International Committee of the Red Cross described to me as a "truth dentist", someone who will persist tenaciously until the story is thoroughly researched and "stood up".

Having done some reporting on human rights (though never at risk of my life), I know the importance of 100 per cent accuracy: get 1 per cent wrong and tyrants will use it to discredit your story. To give a voice to the voiceless, meticulous accuracy is a journalist's essential imperative.

Julian's best-known saying is "All shall be well, and all manner of thing shall be well", but she is no Pollyanna. She lived through war, plague, famine and social unrest, viewing everyday life through her little window on to the world, to which people brought their cares, seeking kindness and understanding.

As a fictional female journalist, Lois Lane, discovers, trust does not come easily. When Superman assures her, after catching her as she falls from a tall building, "Don't worry, Ma'am, I've got you", Lois screams "You've got me — who's got you?!"

Who indeed? Trust is hard to win and easy to lose. Julian's honest voice passes the credibility test. Hers is a byline I can trust.

Without witnesses such as Julian, how would we ever, in a world of pain and uncertainty, find the courage to dare to trust that we have the certainty of God's love?

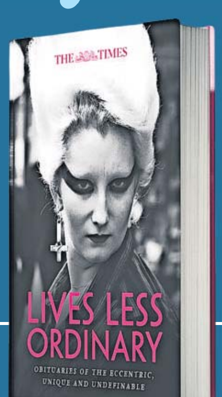
Margaret Coles is a journalist, novelist and playwright

Lives Less Ordinary

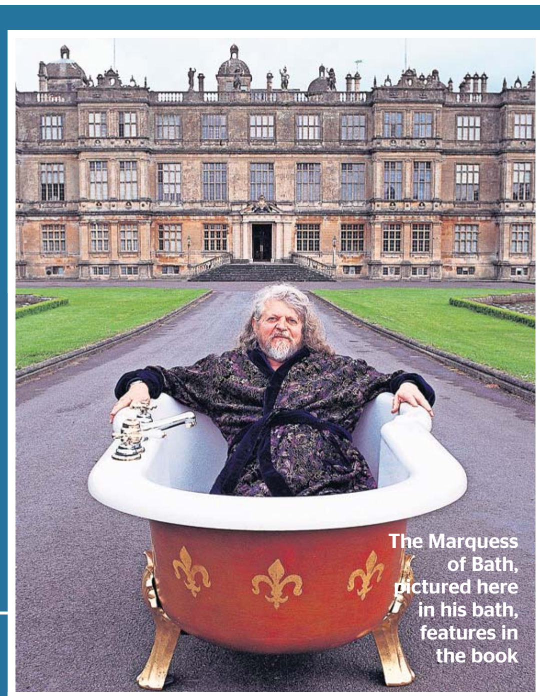
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The Marquess of Bath, pictured here in his bath, features in the book

The Times Saturday Quiz Olav Bjortomt

1 In Genesis vi, 14, God says: "Make thee an ark of gopher wood" to whom?

2 Founded in 1897, the Victoria University of Wellington is in which Commonwealth country?

3 In March, the new trophy for which annual literary prize was named after Iris Murdoch?

4 Which 1962-74 BBC sitcom was adapted into the US TV show *Sanford and Son*?

5 A molecule of carbon dioxide is made up of one carbon atom and two what?

6 A derailleur is a gear-shifting mechanism on which type of vehicle?

7 In August 1968, the USSR led Warsaw Pact troops in an invasion of which country?

8 Jack Thorne's play *The Motive and the Cue* is about the 1964 Broadway production of which Shakespeare tragedy?

9 Remy Zero's 2001 song *Save Me* was the theme song for which Superman-related TV series?

10 In 1413, which king died in a room at Westminster Abbey called the Jerusalem Chamber?

11 "*À l'Argenteuil*" is a French expression for a dish accompanied by spears of which vegetable?

12 Helping with clotting, what are the smallest cells of the blood?

13 In 1982, which group had hits with *I'm a Wonderful Thing, Baby* and *Annie, I'm Not Your Daddy*?



20

ASBE/GETTY IMAGES

14 In 2019, which Liberal Democrat was elected as MP for St Albans?

15 The world's oldest operating bookshop, Livraria Bertrand, was founded in 1732 in which European capital?

16 *Moanin'* (1959) and *The Big Beat* (1960) are albums by which drummer-led jazz combo?

17 The Byzantine icon, *Salus Populi Romani*, is kept in the Borghese Chapel of which papal basilica in Rome?

18 The British athlete Keely Hodgkinson has won Olympic and world silver medals in which running event?

19 In 2020, which English snooker player won the Northern Ireland Open, the English Open and the World Grand Prix?

20 Which type of large sofa is pictured?

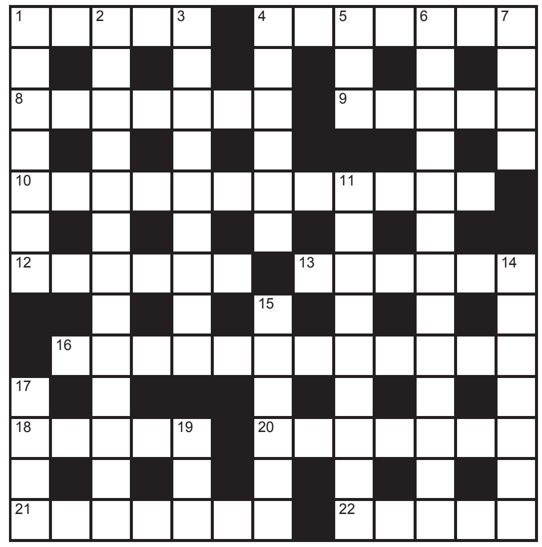
Answers below right

Last week's O Tempora! solution



O Tempora! Crossword CCCXCVII by Lanifica

A weekly crossword for the classically minded



Clues, which may be straight or mildly cryptic, always lead to answers in Latin

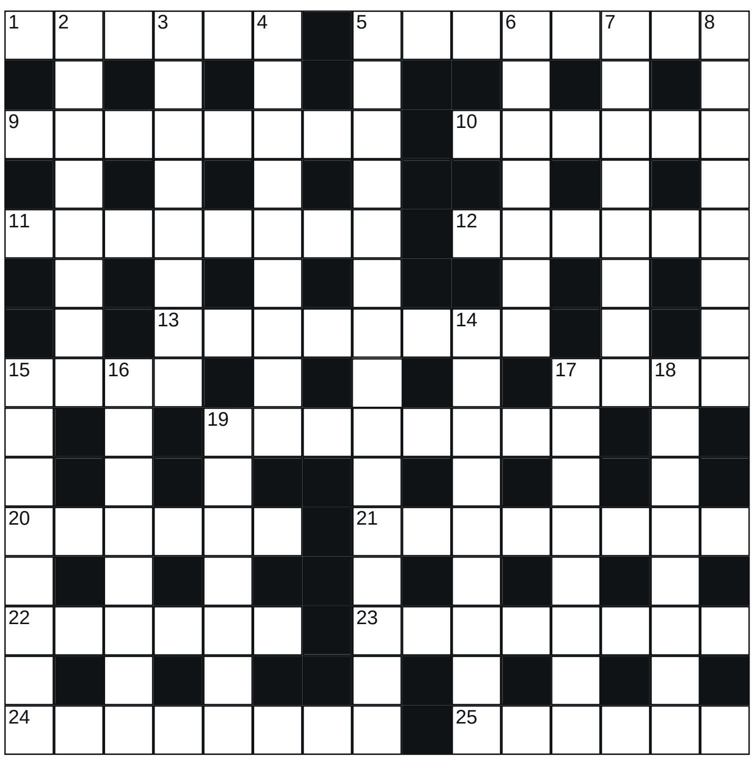
Across

1 Trust me, mark my words: ___ mihi (5)
4 I join, attach to and place near (7)
8 The steward of a farm or country estate (7)
9 Rocks, cliffs or caverns: scopuli ___que cavae, Virgil, Geo. 3.253 (5)
10 To lead or draw around (12)
12 Non ebria, sed sana et compos mentis (6)
13 Gripping and holding fast: dente ___ / ancora fundabat navis, Aen. 6.3 (6)
16 He was drawn close and bound: adligatus est (9,3)
18 She awaits (a painter) (5)
20 They'll be in and belong in (7)
21 I buzz with humming (7)
22 Soft and gentle, eg ___ tranquillusque homo, Plaut. Truc. 776 (5)

Down

1 To do with citizens, civil: civilis (verbum poetarum) (7)
2 One from many, like the tinge of a cheese spread, Ps.-Virgil, Moretum 102 (1,8,4)
3 I'm tortured, or wracked with love (vide Catull. 85.2) (9)
4 I take a seat and park myself (3rd conj.) (6)
5 Through, throughout, by means of (3)
6 They brought in (from abroad) or brought about (13)
7 Bony mountain (4)
11 Dark blue, like the sky, or Britons' war paint: omnes ... se Britanni vitro inficiunt, quod ___ efficit colorem, Caes. BG 5.14 (9)
14 Unguarded, defenceless and not safe (7)
15 I slaughter, or snuff it (6)
17 Diligis, non odisti (4)
19 Quotiens Aeneas conatus est patris collo dare bracchia circum (vide Aen. 6.700)? (3)

Times Crossword No 28,602



A £20 Waterstones gift voucher will be awarded to the senders of the first five correct solutions opened on Thursday. Enter by post to: Times Crossword No 28,602, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or by email to: prize@thetimes.co.uk, with "Crossword 28602" in the subject line. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. Winners and solutions will appear on Monday week.

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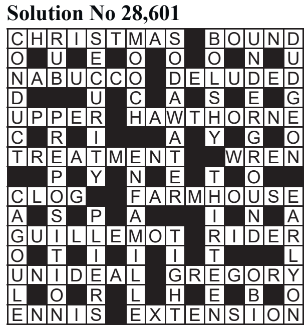
Across

1 Beetle that is Egyptian? (6)
5 Started, and ended, arrogant (6-2)
9 A sentimentalist leaving behind note with a bouquet (8)
10 Tips for future nun to become a member of order (6)
11 Freudian concept — suggestion from Greedy Nan in briefest form? (8)
12 Poetess of note appearing outside a quiet pub (6)
13 All on web, unexpectedly, as store's goods may be? (3-5)
15 Weakness in following a set of rules (4)
17 Having a certain Wisdom: it might be Norman? (4)
19 Brief delay: outlaw's in the city! (2,6)
20 Last item on agenda maybe introduced to cut down small tree (6)
21 Fail to go straight out of town, ultimately: defer (8)
22 What's over well before lass returns, round one (3,3)
23 Way to address legendary cricketer outside a sporting event (4,4)
24 Point of stream's becoming plain (2-6)
25 Being essential to cognoscenti, typically (6)

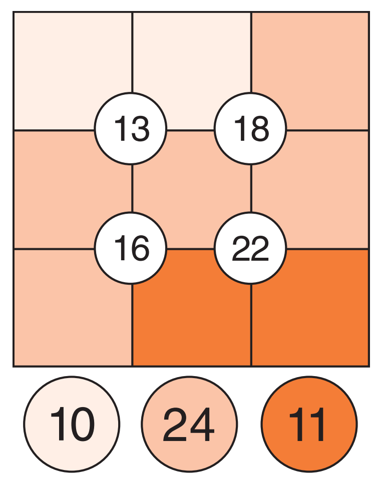
Down

2 Where our case left to go around? (8)
3 In sea shanty, a word or two to tempt thirsty sailors down? (8)
4 Wood casks placed end to end around here, not outside (9)
5 Complicated task called for a judge who's versatile (4,2,3,6)
6 Game I observe well covered in black cloth? (7)
7 Mounting rings way above pillar, and more hanging down? (8)
8 Restrict old PM's contribution to debate? (8)
14 Flag hoisted, soldiers had to disappear (9)
15 Infectiously egged on by fellow with no vowels in Scrabble (8)
16 There's line for you always in autocue: loud indicator of pitch (4,4)
17 Pro involved in a satire to invite trouble (3,3,2)
18 Study dark period for German province (8)
19 Error mostly keeping with a greeting in a foreign language (7)

Solution No 28,601



Suko No 3801



Place the numbers 1 to 9 in the spaces so that the number in each circle is equal to the sum of the four surrounding spaces, and each colour total is correct.

Solution MindGames in Saturday Review

Quiz answers 1 Noah. 2 New Zealand. 3 Booker Prize. 4 *Steptoe and Son.* 5 Oxygen atoms. 6 Bicycle. 7 Czechoslovakia. 8 *Hamlet.* 9 *Smallville.* 10 Henry IV. 11 Asparagus. 12 Platelets or thrombocytes. 13 Kid Creole and the Coconuts. 14 Daisy Cooper. 15 Lisbon. 16 Art Blakey and The Jazz Messengers. 17 Basilica of St Mary Major or Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore. 18 800m. 19 I Judd Trump. 20 Chesterfield.

Concise Quintagram answers
1 Dingo 2 Synod 3 Llama 4 Abstract 5 Leasehold.



WHAT MAKES A ROLEX A ROLEX?

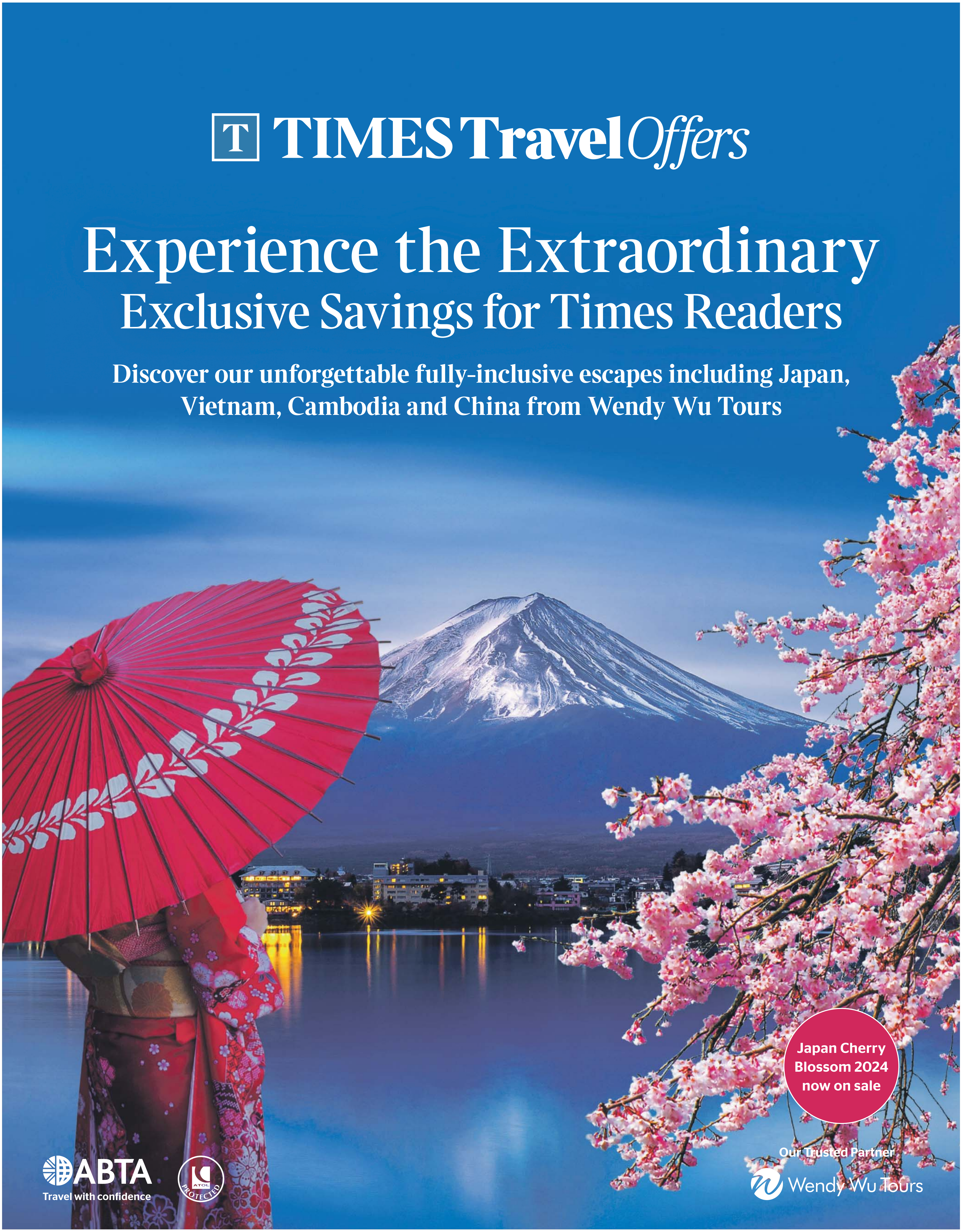
It's not the wheels and cogs. It's not the steel we shape nor the gold we forge. It's not the sum of every single part that we design, craft, polish and assemble with countless skills and constant care. It's the time it takes. The numerous days and months that are necessary until we can print this single word on each individual dial leaving our workshops: ***"Superlative."*** It's the mark of our autonomy, responsibility and integrity. This is all we make, but we make it all. So that, in time, you can make it your own.

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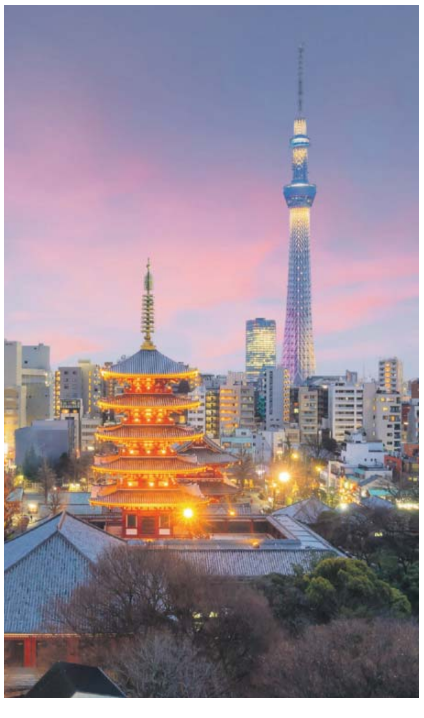
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THE TIMES

Saturday May 13 2023



Our adult kids still live with us. I love it

Plus Exam season: boost your child's memory

Weekend

Travel starts on page 45



Fitness for late starters

How I got my best body at 60

The fashion boss who reset her health

Cool Croatia
25 best places to stay this summer



Top chefs' guilty pleasures



How I got more energy, stronger abs, better sleep than ever — at 60

Before entering her seventh decade, Fiona Lambert set herself a mission: to get as fit as possible

On January 1, nine weeks before I turned 60, I set myself a new challenge: to get into the best shape of my life. As an extra incentive I booked a birthday photoshoot. When I look at the photos now, especially ones of me in my gym kit, I see they are a celebration that at 60 I'm not only the fittest I've been, but I feel the most confident I have felt in my life. That's something to treasure. I stunned myself a little bit too.

Getting to where I am has taken discipline and commitment, but it's more attainable than you might think. I'm a normal person — not a gym bunny. I am married with two grown-up children, and have worked full-time for most of my life, most recently as managing director of the clothing brand Jaeger.

Although there was a lot of effort, the big change to my fitness wasn't so much about working ridiculously hard as altering my lifestyle. Small measures can add up to quite a lot. Eating consciously and exercising regularly was the key. Consistency, I found, was everything. And if I can get into great shape at this age, anyone can.

For much of my working life, exercise involved one or two step classes a week. When my children — Charlie, now 27, and Georgia, 29 — left for university I had a bit more time to invest in myself, and started working out with Joss Garnier, a personal trainer at Unique Fit Gym in west London. I've seen him once a week for the past five years, doing a combination of HIIT (high-intensity interval training) and light weight training. Then, with my 60th birthday on the horizon, he suggested that I take it all up a notch, to see how fit I could get.

I've always liked setting myself goals. I was painfully shy as a child, so I had to force myself out of my comfort zone. The habit stuck. A few years ago I did a 5k run, then worked up to a half-marathon. I've done the Wolf Run, and the Lion's Head climb in Cape Town. So this time I thought, I'll set myself Joss's goal to get to peak fitness and make as few concessions to age as possible. From January I increased our sessions to twice a week and went for it.

I'm 5ft 6in, and I started the year at 10st 2lb. I'm now 9st 5lb. I've lost 4 per cent of my body fat. We increased the strength training once I'd reached my target BMI (body mass index) — which is 21, down from 22.5 — weeks before my birthday.

I wanted to lift my bottom a bit, so Joss designed a programme to include lots of squats with 25kg weights, jumping lunges and skaters. He had me doing a lot of side kicks on a boxing bag, and set me exercises to improve my posture, such as bent rows, and low rows with 20kg — not super-heavy weights. I thought I had good posture before, but when you do a lot of sitting at your laptop, reading and looking at your phone, you become slouched over without realising. It has made a big difference. My shoulders are pulled back. I walk taller. In fact, people actually think I am taller now. It straightened me up.

Each week I varied what I did. For example, one session a week I did two thirds cardio and a third weights, focused on my abs and upper body. For my abs I would do wood chops, crunches and mountain climbers. You can do quite a lot using your own bodyweight. The other session would be a third cardio and two thirds weights, and I'd focus on my glutes and abs — mainly jumping lunges, skaters and glute bridges — all for my bottom.

In addition to my two hours a week with Joss, I did a 30-minute workout at home three days a week using an app called 8fit, which for £75 a year gives a whole range of workouts that you can customise according to what you want to achieve. I went for tabata, or HIIT training, with Pilates moves woven in. I like to keep things interesting when I exercise, otherwise I get bored and lose motivation. I did two 15-minute app sessions back-to-back in the garden at 7am, before breakfast. My philosophy is "eat the frog" (the job you might put off, do first).

I live in Leicester with my husband, Kev, who plays a bit of tennis but is not really into fitness. He's very supportive, and he knows exercise keeps me happy, but he always checks the route when I suggest a walk because he has been caught out going for ten miles when he thought it would be three. I still travel to London twice a week. It's a three-mile walk to my gym from Marylebone, where I stay, so I added that into my fitness push. In fact, one of the most significant changes I made was walking 10,000-15,000 steps a day. I wear a Fitbit and monitor my steps. Walking is truly underrated — a low-level exercise in the fresh air that doesn't hurt your joints and makes you feel good. It's therapeutic, walking through the city, noticing the world as you pass. I did a weekly 5k too, at a pace of 6mph, varying my route to keep it interesting. Then I had one day of rest.

Next came the diet. Between January 1 and my birthday on March 5 I cut out alcohol almost entirely (I had two sneaky proseccos in those nine weeks). I found that the first "no" was by far the hardest. I learnt quickly that it's important to engage other people's support when you give up booze, or they'll say: "Oh go on, just have one." I cut out sweets, cakes, biscuits — though I do like chocolate, so if I wanted a couple of squares I'd have that. My approach was that if you occasionally give in to temptation you can start again the next day.

I've always cooked from scratch — it makes you appreciate your food. Since I often work long hours, I've learnt to whip up healthy meals in under 20 minutes. It doesn't take long to poach a piece of fish or make a stir fry. And I always eat at the table rather than in front of the TV or my phone. During my big fitness push I consumed lots of vegetables, healthy carbs and proteins such as lentils and quinoa, and good fats like oily fish, salmon and avocado. I still do. I logged everything I ate on Noom, a weight-loss app, which made a massive difference to my awareness of my diet. I found that about 1,800 calories a day is right for me to maintain my weight. I think you need less as you age; it certainly wouldn't be enough for a 20-year-old.

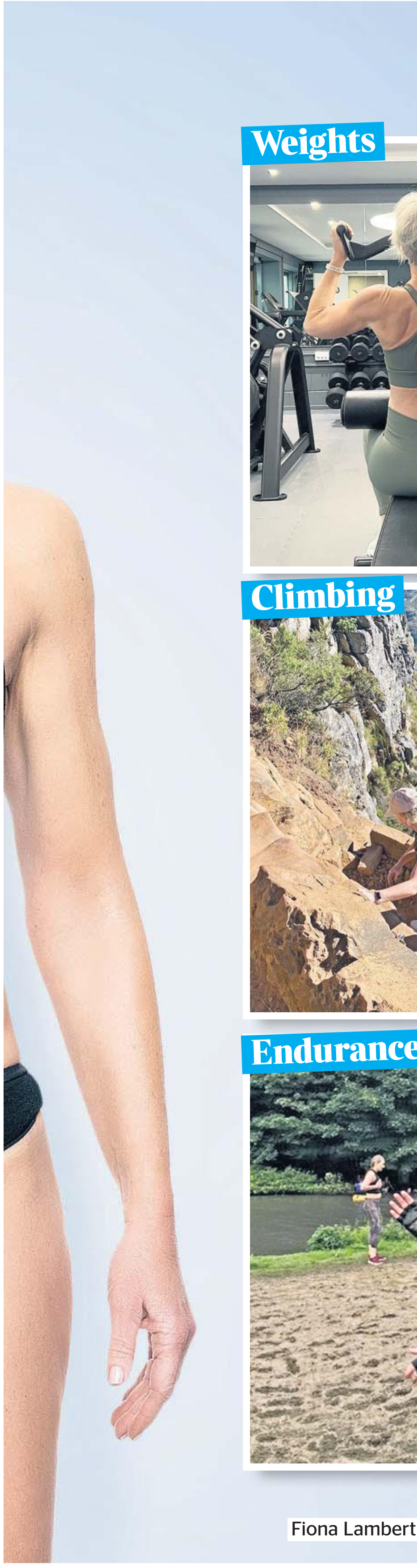
As I got fitter I noticed that I was sleeping better — longer and deeper. Not only was I walking taller, but I felt more confident with my clothes hanging better. I've worked in the fashion industry for more than 35 years and believe that how you dress is part of what makes you feel good.



March 2023


January 2023

COVER AND BELOW: ANDY LESAUVAGE

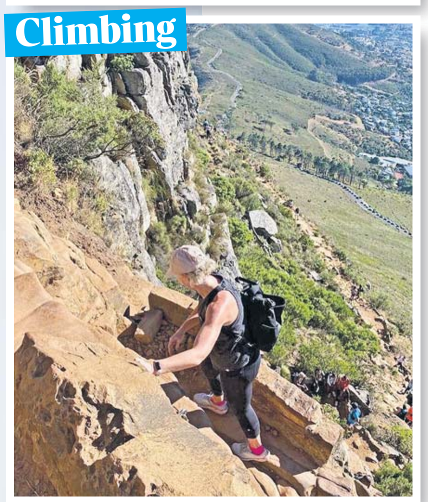


Fiona Lambert

Weights



Climbing



Endurance challenges



It has always been clear to me that when you look after yourself physically, you feel so much better mentally and emotionally.

Before my birthday I certainly had some reservations about saying "60" out loud. People make judgments based on your age, assuming that you are somehow less relevant the older you get, less driven, less energetic and on a path to a quieter life. I finished my job at Jaeger at the end of last year, and quite a few people asked me if I was going to retire. I'm only just starting to get going. If you have passion and purpose, a number doesn't stop you.

So even though my birthday has passed, I am determined to keep it all up. I still see Joss twice a week and do HIIT and tabata three days a week at home with my app. Exercising first thing fills me with energy and endorphins, and makes me feel happy.

I got married in 1992 and dieted to get into my wedding dress. Now I can get it on easily. Twenty years ago I bought my first designer dress; it was Gucci with corset detail. It fits me just as well now.

This isn't just about fitting into clothes. It's about feeling gratitude for my health. My son has had a kidney disorder since childhood. He suffered kidney failure during lockdown — just as transplants ground to a halt because of Covid — and was on dialysis. It was a tough year, though thankfully he had a transplant at the end of 2020, the kidney donated by his cousin (something else that I am so grateful for). I also have elderly parents, and I am watching my father lose his mobility. So when I don't really feel like going out with my trainers on, I think about this. It all compels me to carry on being as healthy as possible. To value feeling fit and well, to be able to enjoy the outdoors, to go for a walk in all weathers.

I do get achy knees, so I take supplements for my joints — collagen, glucosamine and chondroitin, and cod liver oil (arthritis runs in the family, so it's partly preventive). At the height of my training I also took BCAA (branched-chain amino acids) to help muscle repair. I booked a bundle of weekly sessions of cryotherapy, where you spend three minutes in a small chamber that's below freezing. It helps your immunity and post-exercise recovery — the cold reduces inflammation. I also used a Normatec machine — a big air-compression bag — that massages the lactic acid out of your legs to reduce stiffness and aid recovery. Joss had me taking a cold shower every morning to get my circulation going, and drinking two litres of water a day. I still do both. I am more relaxed on my diet now, however. I still have a relatively low-carb, high-protein diet, but nothing is forbidden. I am having more wine and chocolate.

I love dancing, and recently took a course of salsa lessons. Next is pole dancing, which requires a huge amount of upper body strength. I'm trying to learn how to do an unassisted chin-up with Joss — it's unbelievably hard. My next goal is the 26-mile Mighty Hike across the Peak District for the cancer charity Macmillan in July.

I'm about to start a new consultancy job three days a week. I want to continue wearing the gorgeous things I bought in my twenties and thirties. Meanwhile, if I can inspire anyone else to think it's not too late to embark on new health challenges, I'll feel really proud.

People say that I don't look 60, but what exactly does a 60-year-old look like? Why shouldn't we just be told we look great, rather than we look great for our age?

@fionas_fitness_and_fashion

As told to Anna Maxted

Fitness for late starters: getting in shape after 60

It's never too late. Phil Hilton has expert tips — even if you've never worked out before

Exercise is the miracle drug, the energy pill and the age-management cream so many reject, but take it from a fitness addict born in the year the Beatles released *A Hard Day's Night*, it really works. You can lift, run and change your shape at any age. You don't have to alter your whole life, give up your favourite foods or take ice baths at 5am.

The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says all older adults can benefit from moderate exercise. Research has found that it prevents bone loss, lowers the chances of chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer and dementia, and boosts immunity.

There are three areas I've focused on as I've grown older: cardiovascular fitness, strength and mobility. All three fade as you age, so the fightback starts here.

Go gently

If your muscles have done nothing more than part the seal on a pack of Kettle chips in the past ten years, you will need to start slowly. Inspiring though articles such as this are (thank me later), do not make a sudden resolution and fling yourself into runs and weight training. Stephen Gray runs the DVCC gym chain and specialises in older clients. "Injury is one of the biggest reasons people don't get results," he says. "You have to be very careful and not do too much too soon."

Daily cardio is essential

You want to create the habit of moving and build the strength of your cardiovascular system. Walking is a great place to begin — head out every day at a pace that feels brisk and urgent. There will be obstacles: rain, croissants, *Money Box* on Radio 4. Be ready for these and go anyway. Set a goal — ideally more than 40 minutes — and keep moving. As this becomes easier, head out for longer periods. If anything feels painful, get the bus home, no heroics.

Strength — you have to build muscle at this stage

Muscle building is the keystone. "The thing that has the biggest, most wide-ranging impact is strength training — it's the biggest predictor of longevity," Gray says. "It makes you more insulin sensitive, less likely to have type 2 diabetes." And it will protect against disastrous falls as you head into your seventies and beyond. Try bodyweight squats: perform a deep crouch and stand back up straight. If these are too much, default to simply sitting on a chair and getting up again. Steadily increase the number you do, or perform them more slowly. This will up the load without the need to add weights. Squats work the lower body.

For the upper body, try press-ups — an underrated classic. If these are too hard to do on the floor, place your hands on the edge of the bed and do them that way. Make sure each set you do is sufficiently challenging for the last few to feel tough. Don't worry about how many you should do — focus only on keeping your body straight and elbows close to your sides, not flared outwards.

Do some carrying — this is the strength move everyone knows because they've been practising in the car park of Waitrose. Grab two equally weighted heavy objects, one in each hand, and carry them for laps of the garden, or just take the shopping home from Waitrose without the car.



Sting, 71

George Clooney, 62

Fat burning doesn't have to be complicated

If there is more of you than you'd like there to be, the strength training and the cardio will help. The key is burning more calories than you consume. Resist all the extreme diets — they are too difficult to sustain.

Sam Quinn, personal training lead at the gym chain Nuffield Health, says resistance training is your fat-loss friend. "The more lean muscle tissue you have, the more calories you are going to burn at rest, and you will burn more calories for a longer period after each session."

Mobility and balance should be your goals

Mobility and balance are really worth working on. If you're more of a box set person than an exercise person your body will be very unused to using its full range of movement. This will leave you less able to cope with stairs and slopes and generally even more inclined to remain motionless in front of *Succession*.

Gray recommends the lying torso stretch — lying on the floor, one bent knee moves across the other leg, which remains straight. And the seal rock — kneeling on the floor, hands in front of you, head down and then moving forward so the head tilts up to the sky and the back arches. Try these for 90 seconds each.

To improve your balance, practise standing on one leg with the supporting knee slightly bent. Wobbling is fine; your body will learn as you go.

Consistency matters

The habit of movement will embed itself in your life if you keep at it. I'd recommend avoiding the scales in the bathroom and the show-offs on social media. Just keep going at your pace and you will reap the benefits of the world's most-effective anti-ageing product.

Corned beef? Yes, chef! Guilty

From mayo to pastry, Clare Finney finds out the top cooks' favourite shop-bought foods — and how they use them

'They've already figured out the recipe — why bother buying all the separate spices?" the award-winning chef Sally Abé says. She's talking about Old El Paso's fajita kit. Abé is the executive chef of the Pem, a fine-dining restaurant in St James's, London, and she is confessing that when it comes to enjoying a tortilla when she's not working, she is happy to turn to Old El Paso, the brand of "Mexican" meal kits you'll find in all big supermarkets, with microwavable tortillas and a seasoning mix that includes smoke flavouring, colouring and hydrolysed soy protein.

I'm amazed at Abé, whose restaurant makes everything from scratch, including ale bread, cheese and butter. But, as sacrilegious as it sounds, there are some highly processed foods that even our most talented chefs crave.

Heston Blumenthal likes sliced white bread. Jeremy Lee, Birds Eye fish fingers. For the TV chef Paul Ainsworth, a banana split is not complete without Anchor squirty cream. This is not a question of time or skill; Abé serves her Old El Paso wraps with homemade salsa and guacamole, and Ainsworth's split comes with his homemade ice cream. These chefs turn to branded products for their specific flavour, textural or emotional properties: the childlike joy of squirting cream through the star-shaped nozzle, or the nostalgic throwback of sharing Old El Paso with university friends.

Though their formulas may have been tweaked over time, the success of some of these unfashionably processed foods lies in them being instantly recognisable and reassuringly consistent. Most of us would be able to tell Heinz from other tomato ketchups, even if we'd not had it since we were children.

"When you process foods highly, you alter them at a molecular level, giving them a distinct flavour that is unlike the original reference point," says Charles Banks, a co-founder of thefoodpeople, a trends and ideas agency.

Like it or loathe it, ketchup is a good example. "You could try and make it in a pan, but it would taste nothing like the ketchup that is manufactured and processed in the way they do in an industrial environment," Banks says.

The chef and restaurateur Jackson Boxer agrees. "The pureed tomato chutneys I've made in the past are far more interesting and delicious, but they don't give you what Heinz gives you. If customers [of Orasay and Brunswick House, Boxer's critically acclaimed restaurants in London] want ketchup, we give them Heinz."

He does not touch the stuff himself. "For me, it has no virtue at all," he says. For, while Boxer acknowledges the sentimental value attached to branded, processed foods, he fears this detracts from their more "insidious reality". "I can't get decent eggs in my Tesco Local, but there are shelves full of processed mayonnaise. There could be a shortage of fresh tomatoes, but I can still get tomato ketchup. The ability to cook is being taken away from us and being replaced by branded, processed products. So I don't feel sentimental — I feel angry." The risk of romanticising these "dirty" foods is that we gloss over the role they have played in creating a food system that feels increasingly flawed.

Of course, no one could deny that we eat too many of these foods, nor the nation's need to improve the quality and accessibility of fresh produce. Yet while in an ideal world they wouldn't exist, they are part of the culinary landscape we live in.

What many chefs have discovered is a way to reconcile — even celebrate — the worlds of processed foods and from-scratch cooking, bringing fresh produce together with those "enduring brands which will be part of our food landscape for generations", Banks says. "In a world that feels like it has been turned on its head, these are reference points that put a smile on your face." Everyone needs that. Even great chefs.





Jus-Rol puff pastry



Ketchup — Tom Kerridge's secret sauce

Even if they don't like ketchup, most chefs acknowledge that Heinz is what customers want when they ask for it. And it's not just for chips. "I know loads of chefs who use it in their dishes," says the cookery writer Rosie Birkett, author of the Substack *A Lot on her Plate*. Tom Kerridge uses it in his hot wings. Birkett uses it in a spring cottage pie. "At first I used it because I had run out of tomato puree, but I realised it worked really well. It's the perfect balance of acidity and sweetness." The cupboards at the chef Sabrina Gidda's family home were "all about classic Punjabi spices and foods jostling up against British classics. In the Sixties my grandma couldn't get tamarind, so she made chutney with ketchup, HP and Colman's mint sauce. It's totally delicious and such a nostalgic memory for us."



Margot Henderson and Tom Kerridge



Shop-bought mayonnaise — for Margot Henderson's sandwich

Any chef worth their salt can make a good mayo, but that doesn't mean they do so in the privacy of their own home. "Heinz mayonnaise is the best culinary grouting one could ask for," says Margot Henderson, the co-founder of Rochelle Canteen and the Three Horseshoes and a perennial star of the British food scene. "It doesn't say too much, it's just there in the background helping everything come together. A perfect sandwich is Heinz mayonnaise, ham, a good cheddar, little gem and cucumber."

"Homemade mayo is an incredible thing — but I haven't got time to do that day to day," Birkett says. "Hellmann's is the jar I always have in the fridge, for our weekly BLT sandwich." The bread is from her local sourdough baker, if it's not homemade. The bacon is house-cured from a local farm. Yet the mayo is trusty Hellmann's, mixed with a bit of sriracha for punch. Birkett also uses Hellmann's to make condiments such as tartare sauce, with chopped cornichons, capers, dill and lemon, to serve with fish and chips. For Abé it is the Japanese brand Kewpie that really delivers when it comes to making flavoured mayonnaises. "They make Kewpie with just egg yolks, not whole eggs — as you would make it fresh — and it has rice and apple vinegar, so it's sweeter. We use it for everything."

Corned beef — for Paul Ainsworth's family recipe

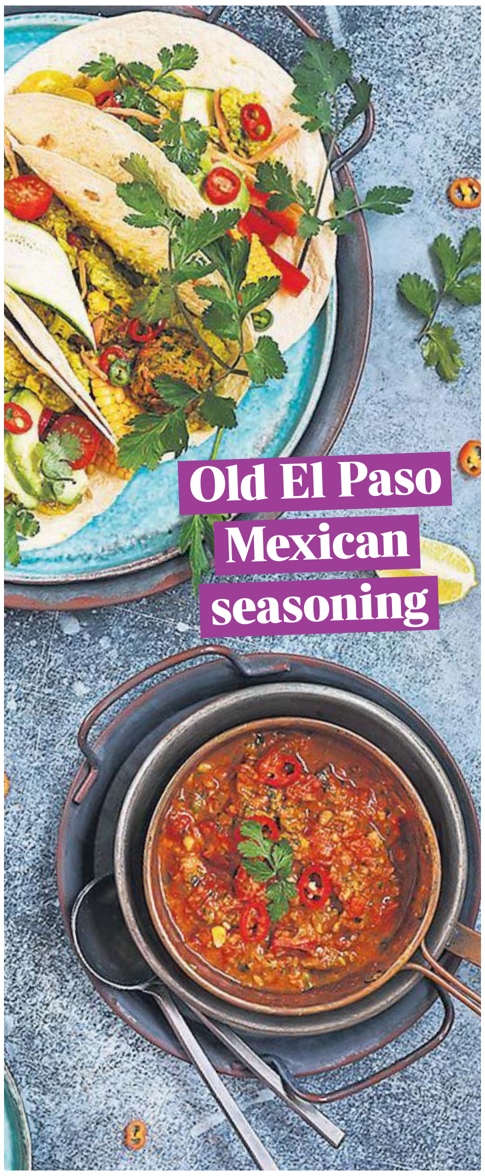
"Every so often I love nothing more than corned beef hash," says Ainsworth, who makes no secret of his love for tinned corned beef. "On the family favourites episode of *Next Level Chef*, I chose the dish my dad would make every week. It was chopped corned beef with white onions and sliced potatoes. I added some thyme, and thickened the stock with beef gravy granules to enhance it and add richness. Then I top the whole thing with pastry."

Bird's custard — for Sabrina Gidda's cardamom custard tart

"I remember when I first worked in restaurant kitchens, making my dad a crème anglaise with egg yolks and

pleasures the experts love

GETTY IMAGES; GEORGIE GLASS






Sabrina Gidda



vanilla, and…well I won't tell you what he said," Ainsworth says, "but he didn't think it was custard." Custard, for the Ainsworths, is Bird's. "It's that velvety texture," says Ainsworth, who loves it so much he serves it in his Cornwall pub, the Mariners. "We do the best of both worlds — we make the traditional crème anglaise with egg yolks, sugar and vanilla, but the consistency of that is more like a sauce. Rather than thickening it with cornflour, we thicken it with Bird's to get a bit of that flavour."

Gidda is Team Bird's too. "When I need speedy desserts I use Bird's to make my cardamom custard tart; it sets super quickly. Bird's signifies comfort, nostalgia, and will always be my favourite."

Fajita seasoning mix — Sally Abé's perfect spice blend

"The Old El Paso Smoky BBQ seasoning mix is a nice mix between sweet and smoky," Abé says. "It's partly about nostalgic flavours for me; I lived on fajitas when I was at university." Old El Paso's bottled salsa and guacamole, however, are "gross. They taste so plasticky. An avocado should not have enough preservative in it to warrant a sell-by date." Abé buys quality tomatoes and avocados, and makes her own.



Digestive biscuits — with manchego and quince for Chris Galvin

There are some things machines can make that man can never better, and one of them is digestive biscuits — specifically, McVitie's. "It is very difficult to beat," says Chris Galvin, who has spent more than 30 years in critically acclaimed London restaurants, including the Orrery, Bluebird and the Wolseley, as well as his own longstanding group Galvin's. "I like that slight saltiness. I like the texture.

A digestive biscuit is very good with cheese. I sometimes make quince paste, and top a digestive biscuit with that and some manchego."



Eat!
Tinned fruit desserts
Magazine



Jus-Rol pastry — for Ed Smith's quick tart

For ease, time and, yes, even flavour, it's hard to beat Jus-Rol's all-butter, ready-rolled puff pastry, says the cookery writer Ed Smith. "And when I say ready-rolled, I mean ready-rolled. It's the perfect size for a baking tray. Pretty much every recipe column or cookbook I've ever done has featured a puff pastry tart with ready-roll, crème fraîche and seasonal vegetables. I don't think it's worth trying to create yourself."

Frozen fish fingers — better than goujons, says Jeremy Lee



"I love good breaded fish. I love goujons," Lee says. "But nothing — nothing — caps stealing a few fish fingers off my niece's plate." And by fish fingers, he of course means Birds Eye. "They've cracked it, and it remains unchangeable and uncrackable." Served with peas and crinkle cut chips, it is "sacrosanct", he says.

Sliced white bread — for Heston Blumenthal's dream bacon sarnie

"You can't have a chip butty with crusty bread," Birkett says. "It has to be squishy sliced white." In his latest book, *Is This a Cookbook?*, Blumenthal suggests sliced bread for several of his sandwich recipes, particularly bacon and coronation chicken. "Only soft bread will do, because it brings a textual contrast I really like," he writes.

Burger cheese — Jackson Boxer's only processed food

Burger cheese is the exception to Boxer's no-ultra-processed-foods rule. "It's the one product that is processed, and in a processed state behaves in a way that I wouldn't replicate myself." Believe him, he has tried, using high-quality British cheese — "but by the time you've added all the ingredients you need and processed it the product is so unlike the original cheese it's not worth it".

There is a place in Ainsworth's heart for a posh homemade patty topped with Montgomery cheddar — "but it's a very different thing. There is no substitute for a soft bun with two patties smashed together with that yellow processed cheese," he says.

It has become a category all its own. "It's not cheese. It's not even cheesy. It's a weird, tangy, sweet, emulsified butterfat product that bonds the beef patties together in a way that doesn't stick in the mouth," Boxer says.

It is the staple of family barbecues, hanging out in McDonald's as teenagers, films and American popular culture. It is nostalgia, and practical function, Banks says — "and those foods go on".


Jeremy Lee

Who'd want an empty nest? I never want my kids to move out



New census figures show over half of 18 to 24-year-olds still live with their parents. Robert Crampton knows why

My children are 26 and 24 and they are still at home. As in, with my wife and me in the house they grew up in. My daughter, Rachel, the younger, spent six months in the US in her gap year, then three years at university. Although, given Covid and the brevity of university terms, she was at home for coming on half of that time. After graduating, she came straight back. If she is a classic boomerang child, up and away and then, oh, right back again, my son, Sam, is more of a yo-yo, up and down the same set of stairs all his life. He has never left.

Sam is a little self-conscious about this. Not much, but enough for the census figures released this week — revealing that more than 50 per cent of adult children aged 24 or under still live with their parents — to come as a relief. He especially liked the stat that the average age of an adult child living with their parents is 24, meaning there are plenty of kids his age and older — particularly boys, particularly in London — who also sleep in the same bedroom they slept in as a nipper. Albeit the wrestling posters have been replaced by arty prints and the cuddly toys have, like Woody in *Toy Story* but without the comeback, long been shelved.

I know the received wisdom is that parents are supposed to sigh and tolerate the continuing presence of our adult children while not-so-secretly being desperate to get shot of them. Yet if the orthodoxy is to complain that they've overstayed their welcome — the mess! the fuss! the noise! the brutally selfish fridge raiding! — I'm happy to be a heretic. Nicola, my wife, and I love the fact our son is still here. And that his sister is still in her childhood bedroom next door. And that we're still where we have always been their entire lives.

Time was, an adolescent hit 18 and they got the hell out, if only because the move was required in order to have sex in a comfortable setting. Even if you got on with your parents, that's what you did — if it was at all possible, and it usually was. Maybe you went to college, as Nicola did. Maybe you moved into digs with family friends, or shared a squalid bachelor pad with mates, or were allocated a space in a nurses' hostel or police section house, which don't really exist any more although maybe they should. Maybe you got married and bagged a council flat. Maybe you found a scuzzy bedsit up the road from your parents, like I did.

> "It feels natural to live together. Our house is as much Sam and Rachel's home as it is mine and Nicola's

You did it because it was expected — by society, by you, and by your mum and dad. And once you'd made the big move, it was assumed you weren't going back. Of course, any decent parent would accommodate your return to the ancestral home in a crisis, be it financial, romantic, medical, whatever. And yet all concerned understood the homecoming could and should only be a temporary arrangement.

My parents' generation and their parents before them were, to generalise wildly, for whatever reason not as emotionally intelligent or empathetic as my own has become. I attach no blame. Scarred by some combination of economic depression, war, austerity, deference, scarcity, snobbery, prejudice, parochialism, the whole English stiff upper lip nonsense, they were products of early to mid-20th century Britain. Even if they were perfectly decent people, they weren't always fun to be around. My generation have in large part never faced, or overcome, the hardship and repressions they endured. The result? We're pretty cool. So our kids are happy to hang out with us in a way we rarely were with our mums and dads.

Sam and Rachel can stay as long as they want. Why do I like it so much? Lots of small reasons, one medium reason and one big reason. First off, they reliably laugh at my jokes. They're a more receptive audience than their mother, who is, frankly, a tough crowd when it comes to toilet-based humour. They keep me (tenuously, but enduringly) connected to popular culture, be it Taylor Swift, the latest amusing YouTube cat video or some choice development in idiom. I learnt to say "tomozza pants" instead of the frankly more convenient "tomorrow" from them. Now I use it all the time and they've moved on. My son coined the term "Toyota" to mean the day after tomorrow, after the ad slogan from a few years back. Genius.

They keep me on my toes regarding politics and history, stuff I pride myself on knowing more about than they do, so that when one or other comes out with a fact or opinion I hadn't considered, I scuttle off to swot up to maintain my advantage. Naturally, I value their tech support when I'm WFH. My daughter is a keen training buddy in the pool, my son does the same job in the gym.

As for the medium reason, the alternative to them living at home, especially in London, is for them to live somewhere less comfortable, less safe, less convenient, less spacious. When Nicola and I bought our first flat in 1990, the average house price was about five times the average salary. Now, it's ten times. My son is a care worker, my daughter just starting out as a civil servant. They could, I suppose, spend much if not most of their salaries on a flat share somewhere not very nice, but why would I wish that on my children?

I don't buy the argument it'd do them good. I lived in a few crappy places and I don't think it was character-building. My mum and dad worked hard for me and my brother to have an easier life than them, and my wife and I have done the same for our children. It's natural, right? Why would you want your kids to suffer? Sure, you don't want to spoil them, baby them, cosset them, but neither do you want them living in a shared house with a pervy landlord and a fire-hazard cooker on the landing, like we did in our first place together. Not if you can avoid it. I want to protect them from harm and hardship.

Lastly, the big reason: we're a family. It feels natural to live together. Our house is as much Sam and Rachel's home as it is mine and Nicola's. I don't make the distinction, so all of that "you treat this house like a hotel" and "not while you're under my roof" attitude does not apply. Which is not to say relationships are always easy. The key task is to break out of the roles established long ago, when what Nicola and I said was accepted simply because we said it. Now, to get along, we have to treat them as adults and, just as importantly, they have to treat themselves as adults. By which I mean they have to do an equal share of the grunt work: washing, cooking, tidying, cleaning, cat maintenance etc. It also means they have to put some cash in the family pot. I don't regard it as rent, I see it as them making a contribution now that they are able to. Pitching in is good for the soul.

I know they won't be around for ever. I don't want to create a new Southfork in Hackney as opposed to Dallas, with JR, Bobby and their spouses living on the same corridor as Jock and Miss Ellie. As the Ewings made abundantly clear, that sort of set-up can get oppressive and dysfunctional, even if you're lucky enough to have a spacious house. I've read *Family and Kinship in East London*, the sociology classic researched just down the road in Bethnal Green in the 1950s, and I know living in each other's pocket for too long can become rancorous, like in *EastEnders*. I know one day they will, and should, move out and set up by themselves, ideally not more than a few hundred yards away. But not yet; please, not yet. Not least because as and when they do, I'll have to foot the bill.

JOHN ANGERSON FOR THE TIMES MAGAZINE



The Crampton family in 2013: Robert, Sam, Rachel and Nicola

Living with adult kids: the rules

Suzie Hayman, counsellor and trustee of the parenting charity Family Lives

Treat them like grown-ups
If your children are in their twenties, they are adults. Your relationship has to shift. Have a round-table discussion so that everyone is clear about what's expected. You might even draw up a contract, including chore lists.

Ask them to contribute
If they're earning, they should be contributing to their upkeep, and to the household in other ways. They could cook a family meal at least once a week.

Expect mutual respect
You don't have a right to police their life, but you do have a right to expect courtesy. Ask them to tell you if they're not going to be back for a meal, or if they're bringing someone back.

Negotiate shared spaces
If they want to entertain friends at home, offer them the kitchen and dining room and say you'll steer clear. But remind them that clearing up after themselves is a non-negotiable.
As told to Anna Maxted

Exam season: how to boost your child's memory

Antonia Hoyle talks to education experts about the strategies that really work



Good stationery and a steady supply of snacks might help, but the biggest asset your teenager can tap into this exam season is their memory. And there are proven ways to help boost it.

That's according to the cognitive neuroscientist Professor Jon Simons, part of Cambridge University's Memory Laboratory, which is dedicated to researching the mechanisms of memory. Last week the lab launched the largest study of its kind into "super memorisers" with a drive to recruit hundreds of people who believe they have exceptionally good memories to see what the rest of us can learn from them.

Memories are made when connections called synapses form between nerve cells (neurons) in our brain. Each contains a neurotransmitter that sends chemical messages between the neurons. The good news for anyone doing their GCSEs or A-levels — or indeed finals — is that these connections are usually most efficient between the ages of 10 and 30. There are several different types of memory, but semantic memory (the capacity to recall words, concepts and numbers) and working memory (how much you can hold in your mind at once) are arguably the most useful for exams, and can be improved with the correct action.

Encourage 30 minutes' exercise daily

"We know exercise is very good for memory," Simons says, partly because it introduces more oxygenated blood into the brain and "enables the brain to perform more efficiently". Meanwhile irisin, a hormone produced by muscles during exercise, has been found to improve memory by enhancing the health and function of neurons. Last year, research found aerobic exercise — moderate intensity cardio such as jogging — is more effective at releasing irisin in humans than anaerobic exercise (short bursts of intense exercise such as skipping). Simons recommends doing a form of aerobic exercise every day, with Harvard Medical School suggesting 30 minutes is the optimum amount.

Your child should be getting at least eight hours' sleep

Forget burning the midnight oil during exam season — research has found that not getting enough sleep reduces learning function and semantic memory recall by as much as 40 per cent. It is thought that while we're asleep synapses shrink to selectively prune irrelevant memories (what we ate for lunch) while consolidating helpful memories (maths revision) in the hippocampus. "If your sleep is disrupted it has a real impact on memory function," Simons says. This, he explains, is because the "permanent filing job" is often done overnight.

Simons adds that the effect is cyclical: when we're tired, we're less likely to be able to absorb new information properly in the first place. The NHS recommends teenagers get a minimum of eight hours' sleep a night. And sleeping pills are not the answer — the Journal of Clinical Sleep Medicine has found that medication such as zolpidem has "the potential to reduce the degree of sleep-dependent memory consolidation".

> "Not getting enough sleep reduces memory recall by as much as 40 per cent

Regular breaks are essential — 10 minutes off for every 25 minutes worked

Time out from studying is thought to strengthen the connections between neurons, allowing us to process the information we've just learnt. The length of break depends on the individual, but the popular "pomodoro technique" for time management allows a 5-10 minute break per 25 minutes' work.

Catherine Loveday, professor of cognitive neuroscience at the University of Westminster, suggests incorporating short walks into time off, since movement stimulates the hippocampus "for good evolutionary reasons — if you leave your house you need to know how to get back to it. Our memory systems are woken up by moving."

Reading aloud will consolidate memory

Loveday explains that "the more deeply you process something, the better your chances of remembering" and recommends students learn something in as many ways as possible to improve their "memory trace". A 2017 study by the University of Waterloo in Ontario, which tested methods of remembering written information, found that you're most likely to remember something if you read it aloud.

Loveday says that looking at pictures of the subject you're learning about also deepens your understanding, as does putting it into context. Someone trying to memorise the sequences of a chemical reaction could go on a walk and allocate a specific point on the route to each sequence. In an exam, remembering the route will help you to recall the sequence in order, Loveday says. "It's about triggering the memory trace."

Install an internet blocker app on their smartphone

Who hasn't felt the frustration of being fully engaged in a task, only to be interrupted and forget it all? One 2014 study by George Mason University in Virginia found distractions so destructive that a 60-second interruption was enough to wipe a short-term memory.

Modern technology is designed to distract, and when we're distracted we're less likely to absorb information fully enough to consolidate it.

Simons recommends experimenting with apps — try one called Freedom — that can block internet access for assigned periods, or leaving phones in a different room and gradually increasing the amount of separation time to train teenagers to focus better.

Ban sugary snacks

Before they try to turbocharge the French revision with another biscuit, there is evidence that an unhealthy diet can jeopardise brain function. A 2021 study on mice found a diet high in fat and sugar could cause cognitive degeneration, while research has shown that women who eat more saturated fats from foods such as red meat and butter perform worse in memory tests than women who eat less of these fats.

Give them a meditation app to follow

Repeated research has found meditation can boost memory. In 2021 researchers at Binghamton University in New York tracked how practising meditation for eight weeks changed the brain patterns of students and made them better able to focus.

Loveday says meditation also helps to reduce stress, which has been proved to impair memory. It also encourages rest, which helps the consolidation of memories in a similar way to sleep, and allows us to take control of our focus, "which is crucial to memory". Happy Not Perfect: Mind Gym and Headspace are both good apps for teenagers new to meditation.

To apply to Cambridge University's study visit tinyurl.com/memorysearch

Pace yourself: the rise of fast hiking

GETTY IMAGES



Peta Bee on the new fitness trend that benefits both muscles and mind

Going on a walk this weekend? It might be time to pick up the pace. Fast hiking — a cross between rambling and running — is becoming increasingly popular. Fitness retailers are reporting a rise in sales of specialist equipment, while fast hiking groups are springing up in response to the demand.

"A large number of people just don't like running, but want similar benefits from a workout," says Simone Dill, a trainer who has recently launched several fast hiking groups in Surrey. "A fast-paced hike provides the cardiovascular and muscle strengthening benefits of running, but allows for stopping and immersing yourself in nature and the scenery."

For people like myself, fast hiking offers a kind of fitness happy medium. I love to run, but my partner resolutely does not. Fast hiking is a fresh compromise. It feels more like a workout than a leisurely ramble — my muscles ache when we finish.

Retailers and manufacturers are reporting an upswing in sales of fast hiking equipment, such as specialist boots like Merrell's MQM 3 Gore-Tex (£135; merrell.com) and lightweight jackets and backpacks, indicating that more of us will be speed walking in the months ahead. "Fast hiking is a test of endurance, rather than strength," says Matt Withey, a spokesman for Cotswold Outdoor, who is tracking the trend. "It gets the heart rate rising and the adrenaline pumping, but a big draw is that people are experiencing nature in a very primal way."

The latest figures from Sport England's Active Lives survey show "a strong upward trend" in walking "for leisure" — there are 2.6 million more walkers than in 2019 and 4.3 million more than six years ago. And if walking is your preferred form of exercise, fast hiking will maximise fitness and health.

What really sets it apart is pace. On average, ramblers might cover 2-3 miles in an hour and trail runners anything from 6-10 miles or more in the same amount of time. Fast hikers occupy the middle ground, moving at an average overall pace of 4-5mph, which is enough to break a sweat.

It blasts calories too. Someone weighing 11 stone can expect to use about 32 calories per hour walking on level ground at a moderate pace, but double that when moving quickly on uneven trails. "There are not many easily accessible activities that will raise your heart rate to a level that promotes fitness," Dill says. "Running is one, but faster hiking is a viable alternative."

Each hiking stride engages the same muscles used in running, including the hamstrings, the quadriceps in the thighs, the iliopsoas at the front of the hips and the gluteus maximus. "Hiking downhill at speed really works the quadriceps and calf muscles as you work against gravity to control your descent," says Professor John Brewer, a sports scientist and author of *Running Science: Revealing the Science of Peak Performance*. What's more, he adds, "there is less impact on the body than with continuous running, which makes it better for people with joint problems".

A study published last year showed that it's not just how many steps you clock up, but how quickly you do so that matters. Faster walking is associated with better outcomes for a range of conditions including dementia, heart disease, cancer and premature death, according to the researchers from the University of Sydney and the University of Southern Denmark.

Just make sure you maintain a pace that is comfortable, but at which you know you are being challenged. Here's how:

Start locally
A big mistake is to tackle an epic walk from a guidebook. Instead start small, fast hiking around local parks and woods, before tackling steep hills and uneven ground that will test your agility.

Take small steps rather than long strides
Be careful with your footing. "If you're wondering whether to take one step or two, take three," says the running coach Sam Murphy. Tom Bosworth, a former Team GB race walker and speed hiking enthusiast, recommends giving way to natural momentum downhill. "Get used to using downhill sections to relax and quicken your pace," he says.

Choose the right footwear
Regular running trainers won't provide the support you require for ankles and feet, while leather walking boots are too heavy and cumbersome for fast hiking. What you need are shoes that are lightweight, grippy and ideally waterproof. Try specialist speed hiking footwear, such as Meindl Women's Respond shoes (£128; cotswoldoutdoor.com) or Salomon Ultra hiking shoes for men (£140; salomon.com).

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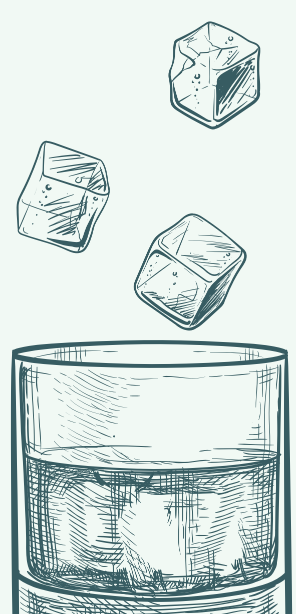
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'Why was I still holding on to Mum's bus pass?'

A spring clear-out can be therapeutic but it's hard to let go of treasured items, finds Maria Lally

JOHN ANGERSON FOR THE TIMES



Maria Lally

They say the apple doesn't fall far from the tree, and never did I realise this more than when I cleared out my mother's house after her death from cancer. I'm what you might call a functioning hoarder.

I'm tidy and organised enough for it to go unnoticed, but I keep practically everything that holds any sentimental value: most of the artwork my daughters (now 9 and 12) brought home from nursery, all of their letters to Father Christmas, every Mother's Day card, their favourite bedtime books from birth onwards — all bundled neatly away in cupboards. I even have a clear plastic wallet with mementoes from my 2008 honeymoon, including the hotel room key and our boarding passes.

So I wasn't entirely surprised when I was clearing out my mother's house in 2018 to find a similar folder containing mementoes from a family trip we took to Australia in 1988. Tucked neatly among the postcards and ticket stubs from days out was the Cathay Pacific menu from our flight home, with my eight-year-old handwriting on it thanking her for a great holiday, and "for being the best mummy ever".

Marie Kondo once said that the best way to choose what to keep and what to throw away is to ask yourself: "Does this spark joy?" But what if the emotion that your clutter (for want of a better word) sparks is bittersweet or tinged with grief?

"The reason we attach so much emotion to certain items is because they're an extension of the thing we once had," says Dr Linda Blair, a chartered psychologist, "whether that's your growing child's baby years or the memory of a loved one no longer here."

Mum's death, a month after her 68th birthday and just six months after her diagnosis with a very rare, horribly silent type of cancer — bile duct cancer — was a pain like no other. My instinct was to cling to anything that kept me feeling close to her. But as Blair gently points out, "trying to keep too many things can become a burden" itself. Or, to put it another way, "If we keep a massive amount of sentimental stuff, it almost takes away the specialness of what we do keep," says Vicky Silverthorn, a professional organiser and the author of *Start with Your Sock Drawer: The Simple Guide to Living a Less Cluttered Life*.

I'm not alone in struggling to let go. A 2020 study found that 50 per cent of British people have difficulty getting rid of unused items because of their sentimental value. The study found that the most nostalgic age group are those aged 35 to 44, and that women are more likely to be sentimental than men.

But where do you draw the line? (And when you're trying to edit and move a lifetime of possessions into an already busy household, there must be a line.) After all, studies show that clutter can impact mental wellbeing, again, especially for women.

One study from DePaul University in Chicago found that the more cluttered a home, the more stressful it is. Another, published in The Journal of Personality and Social Psychology, studied married couples and found that women who felt they had a cluttered home had increased levels of cortisol (the stress hormone) throughout the day.

> 50 per cent of people have difficulty getting rid of unused items because of sentiment

For me, that line became clear when I was sorting through Mum's wallet and found myself wanting to hold on to her bus pass. Eventually, I decided that keeping her favourite books dotted throughout my own bookcases would bring me more comfort than a card that would simply sit in a cupboard. It had to go.

As did most of her clothes, which, aside from a few treasured items (the dress she wore to my wedding, the little teal Boden jacket she loved wearing when we went for lunch, and that still smelt of her Chanel No 5), were bundled up and went to my local Cancer Research charity shop. Similarly, all the matching dresses she loved buying my daughters, who had long since grown out of them. I found this one harder than giving away her clothes, but I reasoned that the money they would raise to fight such an awful disease was worth my discomfort.

"Until you've lost a loved one it can be hard to understand how hard it is to let go of emotional clutter," Silverthorn says. "But picking a charity that means something to you is a lovely way to go about it. Or if you can't bear to give something away, give it a second lease of life by repurposing it and putting your own stamp on it. But it has to be something you actually want to bring into your home, and not something that sits stored in the garage."

In my case, while most of Mum's furniture went to charity, I decided to keep her old dresser and favourite armchair. I had the chair upholstered in a beautiful fabric, and sanded down and repainted her dresser, which I use to display her Russian dolls and her favourite vase, filled with her favourite flowers.

The boxes of old photos I found in her loft were perhaps the hardest thing to edit down — how do you throw away a photo of somebody who has died? — so I put them into piles: photos of Mum with friends or family were posted to them with a note; photos of anybody I didn't recognise went in the bin, and everything else went in date order into albums.

Keeping Kondo's words in mind, I decided that anything with Mum's handwriting on it *did* spark joy, so I kept all the cards she sent me (she was a prolific card writer, and a funny one would often arrive in the post with a "Saw this and thought of you! Love Mum xx" note inside).





Maria with her mother in 1988 (top) and at a family wedding in 2007 (above)

In all of this Blair advises taking it slow and being kind to yourself. "Don't even try and declutter in the early stages of grief because you're still absorbing the idea that you and the person you love are separated for ever. Time is the only thing that helps absorb the enormity of that."

Clearing out my childhood drawings from my mother's house made me realise what my own daughters will have to sift through one day, and when I mention this to Blair she recommends reading *The Gentle Art of Swedish Death Cleaning* by Margareta Magnusson. "It helps you to take stock of what items are important, to declutter, and to do your family the huge favour of not leaving a mess behind for them to deal with." Indeed, if Kondo's motto is "Does this spark joy?" Magnusson's is: "Will anyone I know be happier if I save this?"

According to Blair, the key is to keep decluttering and organising your belongings as you move through life. "Because it's such a pleasure and so calming for our minds to look at a neat, ordered and sensible home rather than be overwhelmed with stuff."

And when I look at the sun streaming through my window on to Mum's beautifully restored dresser, I know she's right.

I never fantasise about my husband

Dr Suzi Godson
Sex counsel

Q Is it normal to never have sexual fantasies about your partner? I'm still attracted to mine, but when I'm alone, I often find myself thinking about another guy who isn't even as attractive as him. My partner and I are in our forties and have been together since our twenties. He has asked me to share my fantasies, but I can't tell him about this one.

If you are still attracted to your husband and happily having sex, your best bet is to say nothing. What you fantasise about in your own time is your own business, and there is nothing to be gained by sharing it.

No one really knows why humans have sexual fantasies, but almost everyone does. In fact, sexual fantasy is such a ubiquitous phenomenon that its absence is considered to be a defining criterion for the disorder "inhibited sexual desire". Fantasising about someone other than your husband of 20 years is not unusual either. In one 2010 study, 98 per cent of men and 80 per cent of women reported having fantasies about someone other than their partner in the previous two months.

Although there has been quite a lot of research into sexual fantasy, there is not much agreement on what it means or what it tells us about ourselves. In 2010 the psychoanalyst Brett Kahr surveyed the sexual fantasies of 19,000 British people, and when I interviewed him I asked him why people fantasise about people other than their sexual partners. He explained, as any good psychoanalyst would, that fantasy creates an opportunity for our unconscious minds to privately and honestly examine a relationship. In contrast, the sex therapist David Schnarch takes a more pragmatic view. He argues that fantasy allows couples to experience variety without violating the grounds of monogamy. And finally, the clinical psychologist Marta Meana explains fantasy from a rather more narcissistic perspective. She believes that female sexual fantasy is a reflection of our "desire to be desired". In our fantasies, we are the central pivot. Everyone wants us and all activity gravitates around us.

One thing scientists do agree on is that sexual fantasy promotes sexual arousal. Lots of different studies have shown that more frequent fantasising is associated with more frequent orgasms, as well as greater sexual desire, arousal and satisfaction. In fact, the erotic potential of sexual fantasy is so widely recognised that sex therapists often use it in the treatment of couples with sexual dysfunctions. Although fantasy is largely unconscious, we can harness it to achieve a specific sexual goal, and that might explain why this less attractive man appears to be camping in your head. If, at some point, thinking about someone delivers a powerful orgasm, it can create a kind of Pavlovian response where that person becomes your go-to sexual trigger.

> "Fantasy can allow couples to experience variety without violating the grounds of monogamy"

The guilt you feel about your fantasy may only add to its erotic charge. In a relatively old (1985) but nonetheless relevant study, women who experienced a lot of sexual guilt were found to experience a much higher state of arousal after watching an erotic video, whereas women who didn't feel guilty were less aroused. Keeping your sexual fantasies private increases their potency, so the best thing you can do is keep shtoom, lean in and enjoy.

Send your queries to weekendsex@thetimes.co.uk



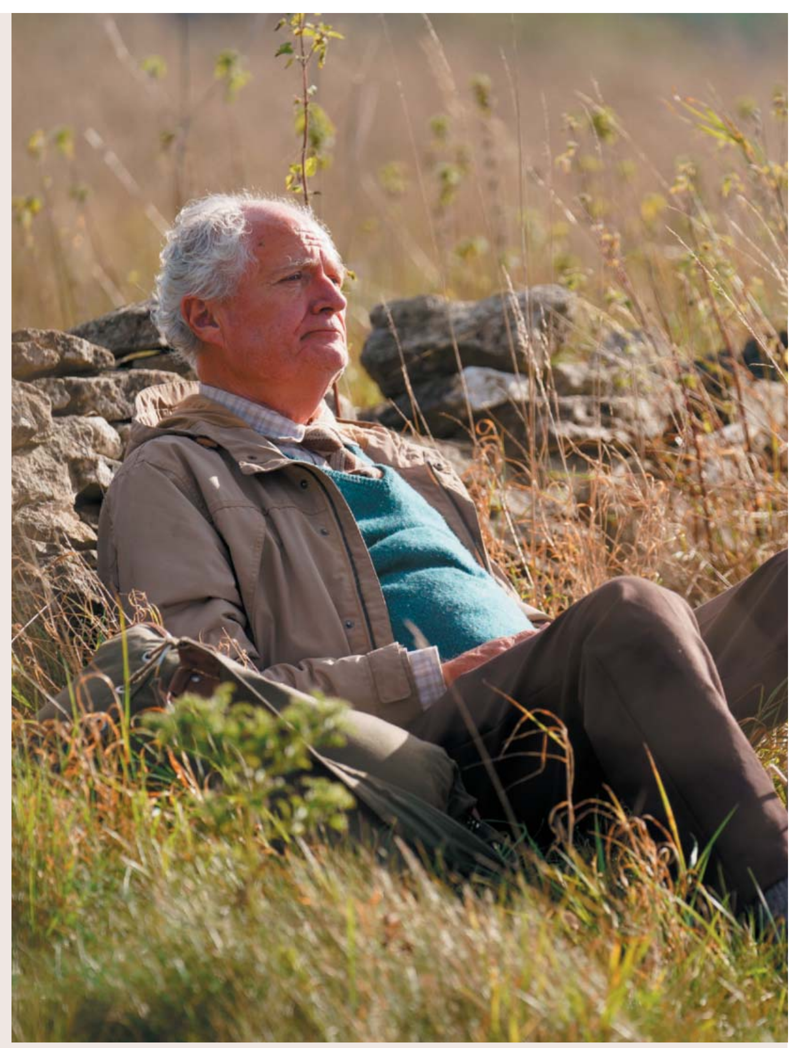
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TOM JACKSON FOR THE TIMES MAGAZINE



Jay Blades

I wanted to be a 'man' – but being macho is a killer

The Repair Shop host, Jay Blades, 53, tells Alice Thomson and Rachel Sylvester about fixing his life

Standing outside Westminster Abbey before the coronation, his MBE pinned proudly to his dapper suit, Jay Blades posted on Twitter: "Just wanted to say a big thank you to everyone that got me here and where I'm going today. I'm forever grateful."

Blades first met the King when he appeared on the BBC programme *The Repair Shop* last year and they started a bromance in their matching tweed caps. He calls Charles "the geezer". They have shared interests — both like taking much-loved, damaged items and giving them a new lease of life. For Charles, appearing on the show was all about restoration and renovation, but for Blades it goes even deeper: it's about rehabilitation. No one, he believes, should be left to gather dust, discarded and forgotten. Anyone from kings to kids can come on his show with their most treasured possession and his team of experts will lovingly restore it so that it can shine again. "I feel the same about people, however damaged and broken," he says. "Everyone means something to someone and has their place in the world."

The 53-year-old overcame racist teachers, police brutality, dyslexia, homelessness, a catastrophic breakdown and attempted suicide before renewing himself. "I know from experience that people as well as items need another chance," he told us for our podcast and book *What I Wish I'd Known When I Was Young*, which focuses on how overcoming trauma and tragedy when young can paradoxically lead to success. "Mostly it's about love and attention and new beginnings," Blades says. "If we are broken we sometimes need help to fix ourselves, but we shouldn't just assume that's it. Everyone benefits from a bit of care and maybe a bit of a redesign. There's nothing embarrassing about that. I'm a person that needs constant repair."

Blades also runs a furniture restoring business, Jay & Co, in Shropshire. "Whenever I think of the teachers at school who told me I was useless and would never amount to anything, I think of all the furniture I have brought back to life and saved," he says. "Schools should be able to restore children too, but mine failed spectacularly."

For our podcast we have talked to more than a hundred extraordinary sporting stars, authors, actors, archbishops, prime ministers, poets, chief executives and artists about how adversity during childhood propelled them to excel as adults. Of all the interviewees, Blades is one of the most astonishing. The presenter grew up in Hackney, east London, in the 1970s with his mother, Barbara, who had arrived in Britain aged 13 from Jamaica, and his half-brother Justin. Their father was never part of his life, he explains, referring to him only as "the man that contributed towards my birth". When he finally met him at 21, Blades learnt that he had at least 25 half-siblings. "The reason I don't call him my father or my dad is because to have such a label you have to rise to that kind of stature," he explains.

Blades firmly believes that repair does not always need to come from parents. Growing up on a council estate in east London, he was surrounded by extended family. "I loved it — it was just like one big house." His mother was his role model. "What I learnt from my mum is you've got to get up and work, simple. You couldn't be a layabout. So every Saturday you had to tidy up the house and then we had to go shopping before I could go out and play."

At 11 he went to secondary school in another borough and his life quickly spiralled downwards. "The level of racism that I received in school was insane," he says. He was quickly marked out as "disruptive", and only discovered he was dyslexic when he finally enrolled at university at the age of 30. "They found out that I had the reading ability of an 11-year-old. My learning had stopped at primary school." He still doesn't read his emails or briefing notes and is taking a literacy course.

Blades remembers going to secondary school in the brand-new uniform that his mother had brought him from John Lewis. "I felt super proud that I had everything new. I looked the bee's knees. And then people were calling me names and I didn't know what these things were, so I was smiling… I spent the next few years fighting. I was in the bottom set and it was kind of like, 'Yeah, whatever. Shut up.' I got all [grade] Us. I don't think the teachers really cared about us black boys, the headmaster used the cane — really sadistic."

The police were even worse, Blades stresses. "If you saw the police, you didn't know whether they were going to put you in the van and beat you up and arrest you for something that you hadn't done. It was a real them-and-us time. When you have that kind of experience from teachers and police, you think to yourself, 'Well, hold on a minute. These people are in power and not actually looking out for you.'"

Even in his twenties and "a 6ft 3in black guy", the racist abuse continued. Blades worked in a sausage factory and as a labourer before going to Buckinghamshire New University to study criminology as a mature student. "I went there one day and was awed by it. I just said to them, 'I want to come to university and learn something.' They asked me what I knew. I said, 'Well, I know a thing or two about crime.' They told me criminology was the study of crime. I was sorted."

> Everyone benefits from a bit of care. I'm a person that needs constant repair

Suddenly life improved. He started a charity community group working with the distressed homeless in Oxford, and then because he was so skilled at crafting, he set up Out of the Dark, a charity teaching the young how to upcycle old furniture. "It was about showing them that they could make something out of nothing, and they could do the same with themselves."

Then the funding dried up, Blades felt bereft without a project, his marriage [to the mother of his daughter Zola, now 16] imploded and he ended up homeless, sleeping on friends' sofas. "I didn't even know if I would see tomorrow," he said. "It was a dark time. I knew I needed support but I couldn't ask. I was scared because it would make me seem as if I was vulnerable, that I was not a 'man'. I was the type of person in the community that everybody else used to come to, but I didn't have anybody. I felt as if I couldn't see myself in tomorrow. I was in the car, I started driving down the M40 and my intention was to drive into a bridge, but all of them had barriers."

It was only when his petrol warning light started flashing that Blades turned off the motorway into a retail outlet in Wolverhampton. "I remember sleeping in that car for about a week." He finally left the car park to go to McDonald's. "I felt someone behind me — it was my body odour. My body odour had its own presence." Eventually the police, a psychiatric nurse and a community nurse arrived. "They started talking about sectioning me. 'Whoa, whoa,' I thought. And that's when I realised that I was in a really bad condition."

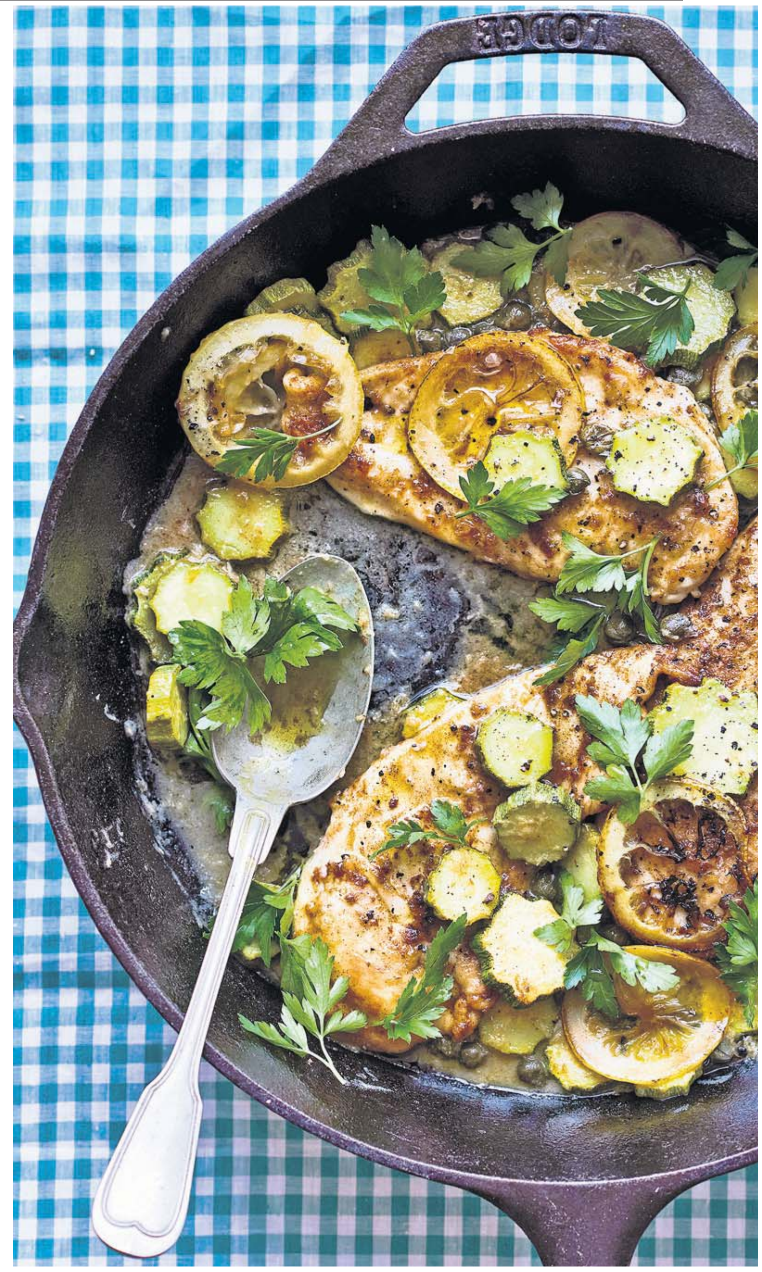
An acquaintance came to retrieve him. "I barely knew him but he said, 'I'm always gonna be there to support you.' And he allowed me to do something that I've never done before. And that was to cry in front of a man and explain that I was broken. He allowed me to open up. I realised being macho is a killer."

Within a year his life had turned around and he discovered he was a natural on the screen, after performing his woodwork skills on one of Kirstie Allsopp's crafting shows. Seven years later he knows many of the celebrities who were in the abbey, not just the King, but he still gives himself a polish occasionally. "You're never out of it. Never. But now I notice tell-tale signs of fracture. We all suffer mental health issues, but we have different ways of dealing with it. Some people have a brilliant resilience, I was quite weak. But I believed that I didn't need support. So the greatest thing I've ever done in my life was to accept my vulnerability."

Last year he got married for the second time, to Lisa Zbozen, in a small ceremony in Barbados. Everyone, he says, benefits from knowing that they can resurrect themselves after accidents, betrayals and bereavements. "If anybody living now thinks that their life is complete and they don't need repair, I think they haven't really lived. To reach your full potential you always need to make some redesigns. The experts on the show love bringing these objects back to life. By restoring something loved through the ages and giving it new life, you're repairing and nurturing a family's history, and that is powerful."

***What I Wish I'd Known When I Was Young: The Art and Science of Growing Up* by Rachel Sylvester and Alice Thomson is published in paperback by William Collins at £10.99**

Table for two — at home. Easy dishes for you and a plus one



It doesn't have to be a dinner party for you to make an effort, says food writer Bre Graham

'There's no better way to show someone you love them than by cooking them a delicious meal," says the 29-year-old Australian food writer Bre Graham. "Food is such a beautiful way of saying: 'I care about you and I want to give you something that is going to make you feel that.' It's an act of love."

Graham's debut book, *Table for Two*, is filled with little acts of love for all occasions. She has recipes for hurried late dinners, feasts for romantic evenings, meals to raise spirits, dishes to hunker down with and booze-infused puddings for parties. She even has a recipe for a heart-shaped pastry dessert that she created after a friend of hers was dumped. "There's nothing quite like smashing a heart when you're heartbroken," she says.

These recipes aren't just for couples, though. "Cooking is something we do three times a day, not just romantically," she says. "You share time and experiences around a table with all kinds of people you love and care about — friends, relatives, parents. These recipes are ways of elevating those moments."

Pasta is a dish Graham returns to time and time again when she wants to make something special but simple for someone. In her book there is a dreamy carbonara recipe for first dates, spaghetti with clams that remind her of holidays with her mum, and a prawn and pistachio tagliolini inspired by one of her favourite Italian restaurants. "Pasta is one of the best things to share between two because it comes together quickly but can taste like you've spent all day cooking it. It requires little attention, which means you can focus more of yours on your guest."

The most romantic meal for two, though, is breakfast, Graham says. "It's such an intimate time of the day, when you're waking up together, either in bed or meeting in the kitchen. It sets the tone for the rest of the day."

Her book is filled with dozens of breakfast recipes, including her brown butter and sage scrambled eggs, which taste as if "you've forked out a tenner at a posh café around the corner", but are made with five ingredients.

Graham is evangelical about the joys of using shop-bought ingredients to spruce up simple dishes, or even as the dish themselves when you don't feel like cooking. "You don't have to cook everything from scratch. Sometimes, cooking is as straightforward as treating store-bought ingredients with a little love and attention and letting them speak for themselves," she says. "It's OK to buy fresh ravioli and finish it with sautéed mushrooms, or buy a ready-made lemon tart and top it with fresh raspberries. My favourite cheat is turning a pack of pre-made crêpes into crêpes suzette with a jar of orange juice mixed with Grand Marnier."



Bre Graham

After moving to London aged 18 from Sydney, where she is from, Graham worked as an assistant at the acclaimed restaurant St John. Her hit newsletter, *Dishes to Delight*, is a weekly collection of good things to cook, lovingly chosen by Graham. Today she lives with her boyfriend above the Oslo Court restaurant in St John's Wood — a Tardis of pink napery, dessert trolleys and flamboyant waiters: a proper old-school date spot. "From my flat I can see couples, mothers and daughters or old friends come and sit at a table for two. It's like theatre."

Graham has thought of every way to express love through eating. There is a whole essay on chocolate cake and a chapter on cocktails for two. "My best piece of advice, if you are cooking for one other person, is pay attention to what they like. Incorporate flavours and ingredients you know they enjoy. It's a way to show you are listening to them," she says. "Remember, a meal is all about the company. The food is just there to help bring the mood to life."

Hannah Evans

Small 'collapsing' chocolate cake

Ingredients
- 150g salted butter, cut into pieces, plus extra for greasing
- 250g 70 per cent plain semi-sweet chocolate, broken into pieces
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 120ml strong cold coffee
- 220g caster sugar
- A pinch of sea salt
- 4 eggs, separated
- 200ml double cream
- 1 tsp icing sugar, plus extra for dusting
- A mix of fresh fruit, such as raspberries, blackberries and cherries, to decorate

Method

1 Heat the oven to 160C fan/gas 4. Line the base and sides of a 16cm springform cake tin with baking paper. The paper should sit above the sides of the tin.

2 Melt the butter and chocolate together in a heatproof bowl set over a pan of gently simmering water, stir to combine, then pour into a large mixing bowl. Stir in the vanilla, coffee, sugar and salt. Let the mixture cool for 10 min or so; don't worry if it looks split — I promise it's all good.

3 As the chocolate mixture cools, whisk the egg whites in a clean, grease-free mixing bowl with an electric hand whisk until they form stiff peaks. Set aside.

4 Using the same electric whisk, mix the egg yolks into the melted chocolate, one at a time, until the mixture looks like a thick custard. Spoon one third of the egg whites into the chocolate and briefly blitz with the electric whisk to loosen the mix. Fold in the rest of the egg whites with a metal spoon, keeping as much lightness and air in the cake batter as possible.

5 Gently tip the cake batter into the lined springform tin and bake on a low shelf for 40 min, until risen like a soufflé; the centre will be soft and gooey, but the sides should be crisp.

6 Now, this next step may go against all reasoning: take the cake out of the oven, lift it in its tin then drop from a 5cm height onto your work counter. This will force the middle of the cake to collapse evenly as it cools and create the perfect bowl-like shape for the whipped cream and berries. Leave the cake to cool completely in the tin, then chill for a firmer, fudge-like texture or keep at room temperature for a gooey, soft inside.

7 When you're ready to serve, whip the cream with the icing sugar until light and fluffy. Spoon the whipped cream into the middle of the cake, pile the berries and cherries on top, and dust with a little extra icing sugar, if you like.

Smoked chilli and vodka rigatoni

Ingredients
- 250g dried rigatoni
- 15g unsalted butter
- ½ onion, finely grated
- Sea salt
- 4 garlic cloves, grated
- 3 tbsp tomato puree
- 1 tsp smoked dried chilli flakes
- 75ml vodka
- 100ml double cream
- 1 bunch of basil leaves
- 1 handful of freshly grated parmesan
- 1 ball of burrata (optional)

Method

1 Cook the rigatoni in a big pot of boiling salted water, following the packet instructions.

2 Melt the butter in a deep sauté pan over a medium heat. Add the onion and sauté with a pinch of salt for about 5 min, until softened. Add the garlic and cook, stirring, until fragrant, then add the tomato puree and smoked chilli flakes. If you're using regular dried chilli, add a tiny pinch of sweet smoked paprika instead, to give that gorgeous smoky flavour. Turn the heat down and cook gently for 2 min.

3 As the tomato puree caramelises and starts to darken, pour in the vodka and stir to deglaze the pan. Let the vodka cook off and reduce before stirring in the cream. The sauce should be smooth, creamy and deep orange. Stir in the chopped basil and the parmesan.

4 Drain the rigatoni, reserving 4 tbsp of the pasta cooking water. Add the pasta and cooking water to the sauce and toss to combine.

5 Serve topped with extra basil leaves and grated parmesan or, for a total delight, a ball of burrata. Eat immediately.

Slow-cooked lamb and cinnamon stew

Ingredients
- 500g diced lamb (ideally leg or shoulder)
- 4 tbsp olive oil
- ½ large onion, finely chopped
- 2 garlic cloves, finely chopped
- ½ tsp dried oregano
- 1 tbsp tomato puree
- 200ml red wine
- 1 small cinnamon stick
- ½ tsp dried chilli flakes
- A small strip of unwaxed lemon peel
- 1 bay leaf
- 400ml passata
- 15 black olives, pitted
- 300g white beans from a jar, drained
- 100g feta, crumbled
- 1 handful of roughly chopped parsley
- Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

1 Generously season the lamb. In a large, heavy-bottomed pot,



Slow-cooked lamb stew

ISSY CROCKER; SOPHIE DAVIDSON



Chicken and courgette piccata



Smoked chilli and vodka rigatoni



Collapsing chocolate cake

Chicken and courgette piccata

Ingredients

2 skinless, boneless chicken breasts
30g unsalted butter
70g plain flour
100ml lemon juice
100ml dry white wine
1 heaped tbsp capers
2 garlic cloves, finely grated
1 tsp Dijon mustard
1 large courgette, thinly sliced into rounds
½ unwaxed lemon, thinly sliced
3 tbsp double cream
Sea salt and freshly ground black pepper
A few flat-leaf parsley leaves, to finish

Method

1 Take the chicken breasts out of the fridge about 20 min before you start. On a chopping board, slice each breast in half lengthways through the thickest part to give 4 evenly sized pieces. Season with salt and pepper, then place a sheet of baking paper on top. Using a rolling pin or similar, bash the chicken to flatten to about half as thick, roughly 2cm.
2. Melt the butter in a large frying pan on a high heat until a deep golden brown.
3. Put the flour in a shallow dish and generously season with salt and pepper. Dust each chicken breast piece in the seasoned flour and place in the hot butter. Fry for 2-3 min on each side, until golden.
4 Meanwhile, mix the lemon juice, wine, capers, garlic and mustard in a small bowl.
5 When both sides of the chicken are golden, place on a plate. Add the courgette and lemon slices to the pan and sizzle for a few minutes until they catch some colour and start to caramelise. At this point, pour in the wine and lemon mix and simmer for a minute or so.
6 Put the chicken back in the pan, add the cream and give it a stir. Turn the heat to low, pop on the lid and simmer for a final 5 min until the sauce has thickened and reduced a little. Sprinkle over the parsley and serve.



heat the olive oil on a medium-high heat and fry the lamb in batches, until golden brown all over. Remove the lamb with a slotted spoon and put on a plate to one side.
2 Fry the onion in the olive oil and lamb fat for a few minutes until it starts to colour, then add the garlic. When both have softened, add the oregano and tomato puree and cook for 2-3 min, until everything starts to caramelise and catch.
3 Pour in the red wine to deglaze the pot, making sure you scrape all the good bits from the bottom. Add the cinnamon, chilli, lemon peel and bay leaf, then return the lamb to the pot. Pour in the passata and 400ml water and stir. Pop on the lid and simmer for 3 hours on a low heat, stirring every now and then to make sure it's not sticking.
4 Take the lid off for the last 30 min of cooking and add the olives and white beans. Cook until heated through.
5 Spoon the stew into bowls and scatter over the crumbled feta and parsley before serving.

***Table for Two: Recipes for the Ones You Love* by Bre Graham (DK, £20)**



Perfect pinks: the best rosé to buy now

Jane MacQuitty

Just how many dodgy pink wines do you have to spit out before a good'un pops up? In my case, it's about 24, thanks to a flood of grim pinks and even grimmer tank-method pink fizz from southern France, not forgetting Italy's sticky pink prosecco. Yet for all the duds with silly names, roaring sales mean more good rosé washes up here every year. It's all to do with producers wanting to make decent pinks, via maceration or direct pressing, and not as a by-product of beefing up red wine by bleeding off some pale pink juice.

Sacha Lichine kicked off the new pink wine era with his purchase of Château d'Esclans, northeast of St Tropez, in 2006. Lichine made it clear that he wanted to make terroir-driven, gastronomic rosés that were capable of ageing, rather than simple pink swiggers.

By treating Provençal rosé in the cellar as if it were a fancy white burgundy, with cooler temperatures, fermentation and ageing in French oak barrels, plus lees stirring, a new, posh pink style emerged with extra complexity, structure and creaminess. Other Mediterranean countries, especially Spain and Italy, had no choice but to up their game and send better bottles here. Surprisingly, Rioja has produced a run of tasty rosados. One of the best value I've found of late is Ramón Bilbao's 2022 Rioja Rosado (Tesco, £8.25), made by macerating garnacha grapes, with their colour and flavour-rich skins, for a few hours to produce a seriously elegant, smoky, pale orange-hued pink, with masses of meaty, beefy, barbecue-friendly fruit. Italy's rosatos are not all nasty, sugary blush bottles either, but if you want a softly sweet, sangiovese-led edition, the bottle to buy is Aldi's 2022 Specially Selected Costa Toscana Organic Rosé (£7.49), with lashings of savoury, herby fruit.

> “A new, posh pink style has emerged with extra complexity and structure

If it's got to be French, check out the 2022 AIX, Coteaux d'Aix en Provence (henningswine.co.uk, £15.75), with its darker rose-pink shade and richer, strawberry and lemon zest pizzazz, with syrah and cinsault spicing up the grenache base. Party people will want a showy AIX magnum on their table, yours for £34.95 at Hennings. Or splash out on Miraval's finer 2022 Sainte Victoire Rosé (Majestic, £25.99), from a top Côtes de Provence spot and bursting with delicious thyme, pine and tobacco leaf fruit.



2022 Chassaux et Fils IGP Atlantique Rosé, France ***12 per cent, Aldi, £6.49*** Bargain buy, sweetly fruited, hibiscus and redcurrant cabernet sauvignon-led pink from the Bordeaux area.



2022 Cerasuolo d'Abruzzo Rosato, Contesa, Italy ***13.5 per cent, thewinesociety.com, £8.95*** Brilliant rosato, with vibrant, red cherry and cranberry fruit, plus a pleasingly bitter finish.



2022 Rosato delle Conchiglie, Poggiotondo, Italy ***13 per cent, oldbridgewine.co.uk, £22*** Terrific, organic, sangiovese grape Tuscan, with floral, citrus blossom and orange peel zest.



2021 Rock Angel, Côtes de Provence Rosé, France ***13.5 per cent, waitrosecellar.com, £26*** Swanky, aged Provençal pink, with delicious savoury, tea leaf and pink peppercorn charm.

This week's top supermarket bottles



2021 Irresistible Carménère, Chile ***14 per cent, Co-op, £6.50, down from £7*** Snap up this food-friendly, spicy red, with delicious, dusky raspberry fruit, from the Maipo valley.



2022 Rustenberg Unwooded Chardonnay, South Africa ***13 per cent, Tesco, £10, down from £12*** Easily worth a tenner, this stylish, richly fruited chardonnay is fermented on its own natural yeasts.



2018 The Best Valpolicella Ripasso, Italy ***13.5 per cent, Morrisons, £11*** Tailor-made for barbecues, this poor man's amarone has similarly rich, sweet black cherry and mocha fruit.



2016 The Best Marqués de los Rios Rioja Blanco, Spain ***12.5 per cent, Morrisons, £13*** A golden, toasty, vanilla pod-scented, fruity white Reserva is just the ticket with big summer flavours like curried chicken.



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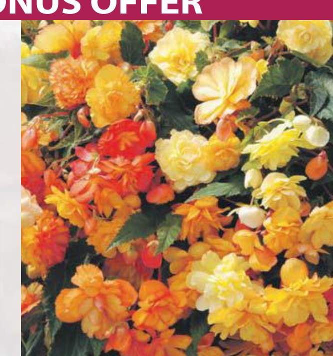
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Outside

Fire up your borders with orange blooms



Some gardeners find this colour a bit much. They couldn't be more wrong, says Joe Swift



Does the colour palette in your garden need a bit of a shake up? Are you getting a bit tired of the traditional blue, white, pink and purple? If you want to jazz things up, or just fancy a change of direction, then my advice is to throw in some orange. Yes, orange! I can spot some of you turning away from your (golden orange) egg yolk in disgust. I say try it, a little at first. Who knows where it will lead — and that's exciting, isn't it?

Adding a few pops of orange helps to make a border more riotous, energised and less predictable, while intensifying the colours of existing plants too. It doesn't need much planning either. Now is a good time to go to the garden centre or nursery and see what they have in stock.

Orange complements blue, being opposite on the colour wheel, so it works well when introduced into a border with plenty of blues and purple tones, as well as all the green in the garden.

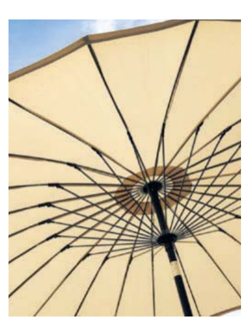
It is the least common flower colour, but there are enough to choose from in a range of hues, from the soft oranges of plants such as *Verbascum* 'Clementine' and *Geum* 'Mai Tai', through to the more yellow oranges of flowers like *Crocosmia* 'George Davison' and *Dahlia* 'Mel's Orange Marmalade'. Later in the year there's



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'I set out across Rannoch Moor to trace the faint and mysterious Old Military Road'
Christopher Somerville's good walk

ROBERT MABIC/GAP PHOTOS; ALAMY; SHUTTERSTOCK


A border including Dahlia 'David Howard'

the more powerful, coppery orange of heleniums, achilleas and dahlias and some orange echinacea (cone flower), which help to prolong the season.

Orange flowering plants are broadly sun lovers. Crocosmia (late summer) and geums (early summer) grow well in full sun to semi and dappled shade, so make fine linking plants throughout the garden. For dry shade *Epimedium* x *warlayense*, commonly known as bishop's hat, has lovely delicate sprays of orange and yellow flowers in spring.

> Adding a few pops of orange helps to make a border more riotous and less predictable

Joe's favourite orange flowers



Crocosmia 'Emily McKenzie'

A flamboyant variety that produces sprays of large orange flowers with distinctive red blotches. Upright mid-green slender leaves too. Height 60cm x spread 30cm.



Dahlia 'David Howard'

A decorative dahlia with intricate, fully double, soft orange flowers. The dark purple-bronze leaves are another asset. Keep deadheading and feeding and they will flower till the first frosts. Height and spread 75cm.



Echinacea 'Parrot'

A compact flower in yellow and red — which basically makes orange! Flowers in high summer. The trick with echinacea is to grow them in fertile soil with some moisture. Height 60cm x spread 40cm.



Euphorbia griffithii 'Dixter'

A fabulous deciduous euphorbia with orange and brick-red long-lasting flowers in early summer. Likes moisture in the soil. Can be a little boisterous but easy to contain. Height 90cm x spread 60cm.



Geum 'Prinses Juliana'

Geums are a go-to plant for adding a pop of colour into the front of a border. Bright orange open flowers (great for bees) are held on strong wiry stems above the puckered foliage. Easy to grow, and easy to divide and dot around. Height and spread 60cm.



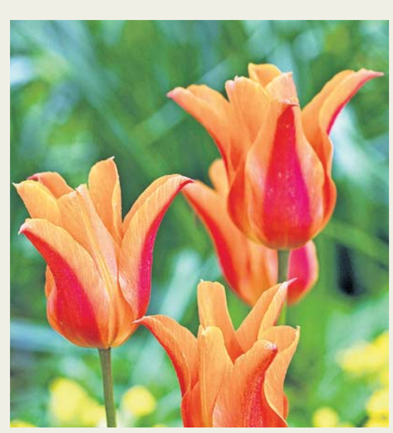
Kniphofia 'Tawny King'

Many red-hot pokers are fiery, this one is more smoky. Cream buds open into soft orange, to form a two-tone flower on bronze stems in high summer. Looks great with grasses in bleached-out tones. Height 1.2m x spread 1m.



Lupinus 'Gladiator'

Tall spires of pagoda-like flowers add a fab vertical accent to your border in mixed tones of apricot orange and sunny yellow. Flowers June and July. Height 90cm x spread 60cm.



Tulipa 'Ballerina'

A garden designer's dream — a lily-shaped, tangerine-coloured tulip with a good scent. Plant in autumn in borders or containers to add a burst of colour in spring. Height up to 1m.



Verbascum 'Clementine'

A lovely upright flower with soft salmon-orange flowers and magenta eyes. Multi-branching and reliable. A short-lived perennial that requires well-drained neutral to alkaline soil and sun. Height 1.5m x spread 60cm.

Weeder's digest

The first large-headed peonies are ready to flower, so make sure they have any necessary supports. A cat's cradle of strings is easily installed and will stop the foliage of these short early varieties spreading too widely, leaving more light for neighbours.

Time to prune evergreen *Osmanthus delavayi* now it has finished flowering. You can trim it over with shears to maintain a firm 2m shape, or manage it more informally with secateurs, which is the best way to treat the larger-growing, coarser *Osmanthus* x *burkwoodii*.

After flowering, trim away the flowered shoots of the winter heathers *Erica carnea* and x *darleyensis*. Take off the last few centimetres,and snip out any straggly stems with secateurs. Clipping improves flowering next year and also helps to keep the plants dense right to the centre.

Roses are shooting merrily, and in warm sheltered corners aphids may already be breeding on the soft new shoots. Keep an eye open: the ladybirds aren't much help yet so you may need to step in with the finger and thumb and soapy water.

May is the month for weeds. There's warm damp soil, but not enough foliage yet from other plants to smother the bare patches. So give some time to hand weeding and hoeing.

Pictures of prostrate rosemary pouring over wall tops are usually the result of some judicious snipping, to remove the wayward shoots that might point back upstream or up in the air. Look your plant over now, ideally snipping back to shoots that point in the desired direction.

Stephen Anderton

Vibrant colour for paths, steps and stone walls

Treat them well, and alyssum and aubrieta will give dramatic rewards, says Stephen Anderton

MARIANNE MAJERUS GARDEN IMAGES; ALAMY



Steps edged with purple alyssum and yellow aubrieta

Purple aubrieta is a bit of a Marmite plant. You either love it or you don't. I remember, when I was a kid, a great cascade of it on a rockery bank outside my dad's school, mixed as ever with yellow alyssum — sheets of the stuff, like painting by numbers.

Well, aubrieta sells like hot cakes in April-May, whether it's purple, magenta or variegated, and you have to admire anyone who can grow it well, who can create those great uninterrupted, healthy sheets of growth whatever the species, be it aubrieta, yellow alyssum or snow-in-summer. Because we've all seen those straggly versions, haven't we, trailing over roadside walls, thin and dry and not looking particularly healthy.

These specimens, naturally happy in poor conditions, must be truly exhausted to look so bad, and therein lies the clue to their betterment: only improve their life a smidgeon and they will repay you loyally.

Aubrieta for instance, doesn't really want to trail far from its meagre root system over a bare brick wall, attractive though it looks. It would naturally spread its mat over stony ground where it could root here and there, taking up water and nutrients as it went. It's also ludicrously floriferous and sets copious seed, which costs it a great deal of energy.

How to help such a plant? You cut it back to reduce its spread, and you shear off all those little flower stems. It will look shaved for two or three weeks but it's pretty forgiving, especially if you work in a sprinkling of slow-release fertiliser around its roots. But don't feel you have to feed: if the plant always grows healthily without it, leave well alone, it's tough.



Aubrieta deltoidea

A plant that went in only last year may need dead-heading, but as plants become wider over the years they tend to baldness at the centre so cutting back, severely if necessary, encourages the centre to sprout. And with this regular attention, an aubrieta may go on looking pretty fresh for a decade or more. At worst, you may be able to find a rooted bit, sever it in March, and replant it elsewhere or use it to completely replace a worn-out parent plant. To encourage rooted pieces, spread a couple of handfuls of soil among the mat of live stems.

Alyssum saxatile is a stalkier character than aubrieta, but just as easy to grow. Its stiffer habit copes better in wind, where aubrieta would thrash about over a wall edge and sometimes tear away.

Alyssum too deserves to have its spread reduced after flowering, by half, and the flower stems removed. Since they tend to flop you may find yourself doing the job with secateurs, by the handful, rather than with shears. Snow-in-summer (*Cerastium tomentosum*) produces its sheets of white flowers long after the above two, in May-July, set off by cool grey foliage, and like many other grey-leaved plants, it really does like the dry life. It's not a plant to spoil with rich or moist soil, which will produce rank growth and may even make it rot off in winter. To prove its drought-tolerance, I have swags of it which have self-sown into an old drystone wall, where their roots are slid tight between large cool stones that must supply some tiny reserve of moisture.

Aubrieta will seed if you let it, but not as freely as snow-in-summer, so it's worth dead-heading this. But again, by removing the seed and all the energy needed to ripen it, you are saving the plant from exhaustion, which is much more important.

Snow-in-summer needs the same cutting back after flowering, by perhaps a third, though if needs be you can go much further, and while you're about it, snip out all the dead stalky growth underneath the face of the swag. Feed won't be necessary. It will then, like all these plants, make new growth that will be ready to flower again next year. As evergreens, their mats of foliage will then look dense and strong through the forthcoming winter.

I do find, though, that by this time of year, snow-in-summer may want a bit of an extra prune, just to tidy up its spread. The full swag of flower will hang considerably lower than the mat of winter foliage and, if it's hanging over a terrace wall, you don't want it in the hair of plants on the next level down.

Question time

Q I am puzzled. How do the compost manufacturers make acidic, ericaceous compost suitable for lime-hating plants without using peat?
J Leeming

A Easily enough: by using fibrous alternatives which are not in themselves alkaline, and by adding no alkaline element to the mix, as is common for most general-purpose composts. Without the lime present, the lime-hating plants' physiology can function perfectly healthily, regardless of the fibre it sits in.

Q Can you recommend a green tulip please? Next year I want to mix them in pots with yellows.
E Coyle

A 'Green Power' is two-tone pale and mid green. In white and green comes 'Spring Green' and the deliciously spidery 'Green Star'. Last year I was given some parrot tulips, including 'Rasta', which is almost, frustratingly, pure blue-green in bud until, at the last moment, it adds in scarlet and yellow. Amazing.

Send your questions to stephen.anderton@thetimes.co.uk

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The countryside near Victoria Bridge

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Rannoch Moor is home to cuckoos



Wood anemone

A good walk Rannoch Moor and the Old Military Road, Argyll

How hard is it?

6½ miles; easy gradient

Around Victoria Bridge, near the Inveroran Hotel, a cuckoo was calling from the trees by the river. A still afternoon, perfect for the hatching of the first hungry midges of the season. I sprayed on midge repellent and set out across Rannoch Moor to trace the faint and mysterious Old Military Road.

Rannoch Moor, a great expanse of unbroken blanket bog, loch and rough heather plateau, is one of the wildest places in Scotland. Major William Caulfeild supervised the building of the road across it in the summers of 1751 and 1752. The English were not exactly welcome hereabouts, and legend has it that three soldiers had to keep guard against ambush for every man labouring with pick and shovel on the road itself.

Nowadays Caulfeild's road has been more or less absorbed back into the moor grass, bog and heather. I had to get my eye in, letting my gaze roam across apparently trackless moor until it snagged on a darker groove in the grass, or caught the faint curve of an embankment.

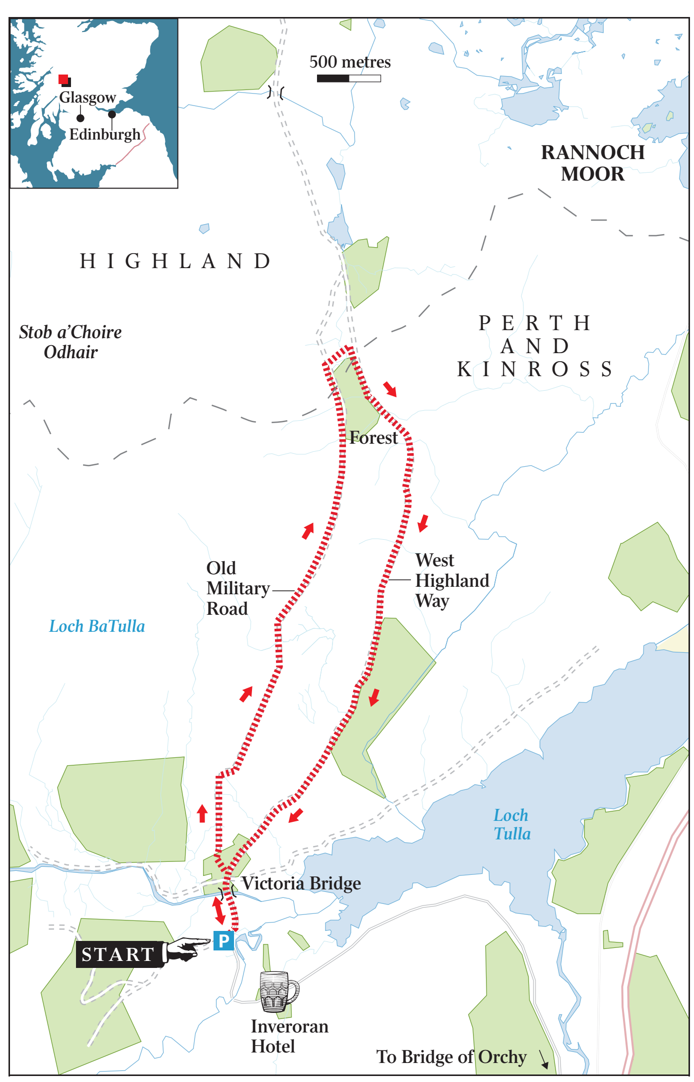
The road is wild but well engineered, running in long straight stretches with occasional deviations. The cuttings are supported with stone walling and there are frequent side scoops showing where the soldiers quarried the rocks and pebbles needed for the construction.

Across the wilderness of the moor I followed the road. A series of sighting stones on successive skylines helped to find the direction. Sprays of blotched leaves as slim as penknife blades showed where heath spotted-orchids would be blooming come full summer.

At a block of forestry the character of the road changed from an open moorland track to a black peat slutch, both sticky and slippery. But there was better walking in the valley below for the homeward trudge.

Thomas Telford built a new road across Rannoch Moor, now the route of the West Highland Way, early in the 19th century — a proper level road, broad and stone-surfaced, crossing streams and rivers by solid stone bridges. By then Caulfeild's old route was already half reabsorbed into the moor. I squelched down to the West Highland Way, stream scrambling and bog hopping, and turned for home along its cobbled roadway. Wood anemones along the roadside were shutting their petals for the night, and the mountains to the east stood in soft evening sunshine, their high corries shining.

> “I squelched down to the West Highland Way, stream scrambling and bog hopping, and turned for home



Start Victoria Bridge car park, Inveroran Hotel, near Bridge of Orchy PA36 4AD approx. (OS ref NN 271418)
Getting there Signed off A82 at Bridge of Orchy station.
Walk (OS Explorer 377): Left along road; cross bridge. Just before Forest Lodge, left along drive (272421; Loch Etive by Glen Kinglass). At end of trees, right along forest edge. In 250m, Old Military Road (OMR) veers left away from trees (271424), aiming for right-hand slope of Stob a'Choire Odhair. In 600m, when almost level with top of forestry on left, OMR swings right (271430). In ¾ mile, after crossing Easan Dubh, OMR bends right (276442). In 1 mile OMR reaches forestry on right (282456). Follow fence; in 500m it bends right (281461). Follow it across streams to West Highland Way (283462); right for 3 miles to car park.
Lunch/accommodation Inveroran Hotel, Bridge of Orchy PA36 4AQ (01838 400250; inveroran.com)
More information visitscotland.com; ancientmonuments.uk; roads.org.uk.
NB: this is an adventurous walk on a moorland path then cobbled track. Not recommended in mist. Old Military Road is squelchy underfoot. Route is faintly marked in places; use a good GPS or map/compass. Look for occasional, prominent marker stones on skyline.
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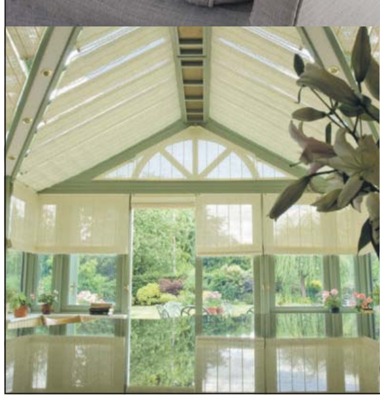
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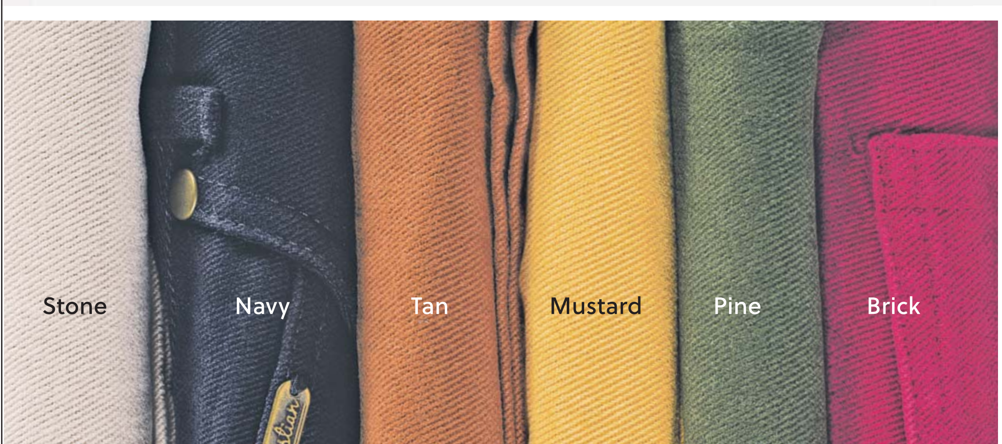
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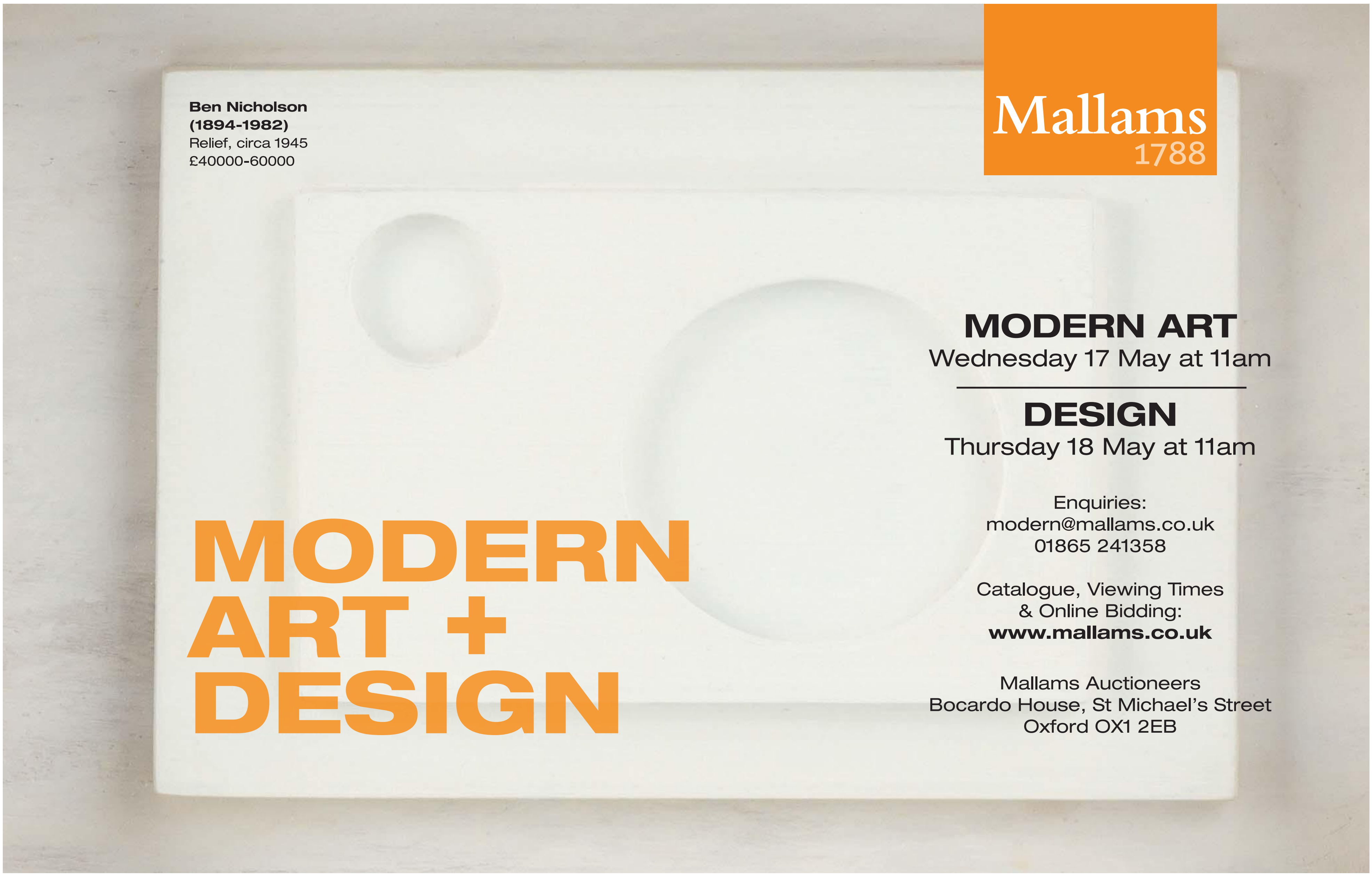
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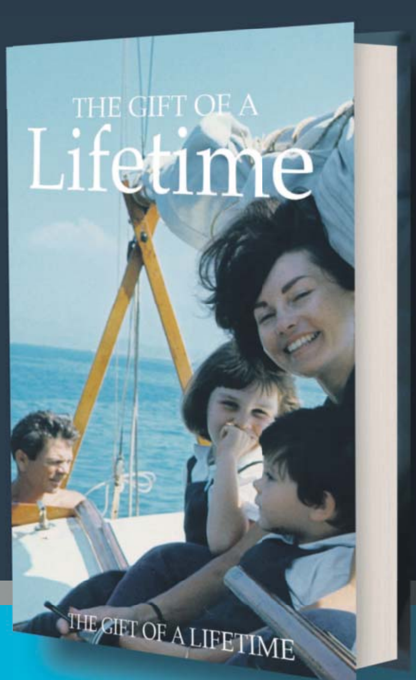
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Stairlift? No Thanks!

Why would you install a chair to travel up and down your stairs? After all, it gets in the way when you're trying to walk up or down, it's tricky to get on and off at the top of the stairs, and if you or the person using it needs a wheelchair or walking frame it means having one both upstairs and downstairs. It just doesn't make sense. With a homelift all you do is walk or wheel in, push the button and you're traveling between floors with safety, comfort, and ease.

Neat & Discreet

A Stiltz Homelift can be installed in almost any room in your home. Our smallest model has a footprint similar in size to a compact armchair and the curved lines help to further streamline the appearance. All Stiltz Homelifts plug into a dedicated standard domestic socket so don't need all the equipment which comes with hydraulic lifts, and the drive mechanism is hidden out of the way in the top of the lift car. Because the lift car runs up and down on its own vertical rails the whole installation is self-supporting. No other lift looks like it or works like it!

Furthermore, Stiltz Homelifts are so economical they've been proven to use less power than boiling a kettle.

Made for the Home

The majority of home lifts available in the UK are modified commercial lifts. Not so Stiltz Homelifts. Our vision from day one was to create lifts for everyone, and this means homelifts which are designed to work in a home from the outset. Every last detail has been thought about, from how the lift looks, through how it installs, to how it functions, how quiet it is and how cost-effective it is to run.

Tried and Trusted

When Trustpilot reviewers refer to the Stiltz Homelift being 'a gamechanger', you KNOW you're doing something right. Reviewers also continually praise the cleanliness and professionalism of the surveyors, builders and installation teams.

"I could go upstairs when I wanted..."

Testimonial

"I've always been active, working as a police officer before re-training as a personal trainer. When I sustained my rugby injury resulting in the loss of use of my legs I had to work hard to readjust. With two children under the age of ten it became a must for me to live independently at home.

With the help of the RFU Injured Players Foundation, I was able to install a Stiltz Trio+ Wheelchair Homelift into my house. I can't begin to explain how significant this was for me. I could go upstairs when I wanted instead of relying on my partner to give me a piggy back. I could also read the kids their bedtime stories at their bedsides, just like any able-bodied Mum does.

With Stiltz I never felt sold to, nobody was pushy they just gave us all the information we needed to be able to make our own buying decision".



Dani Watts, Berkshire

Stiltz are very proud of the teams who work in customers' homes. We know our customers are concerned we might make a mess. But comments such as 'the installers left our home pristine', 'the building and installation teams were a joy to have in our home' and 'I can't praise the lads that come to do the work in our home enough', tells us our customers are overwhelmingly delighted with the work we do. Buy from a UK company who manufacture and install their own products using their own people, safe in the knowledge that if you need us, we are at the end of the phone in one of our three UK locations.

Homelifts for All

People buy homelifts for many different reasons. Some are wheelchair users who need immediate help with moving around the home and are looking for one of our larger lift models. Others are planning for the future and making their home secure for their golden years and are keen to install one of our stylish, compact models.

FREE, No-obligation Surveys

When you're ready, our UK-based team will be there to take your call. We can answer any questions you have and arrange for one of our Sales Advisors to visit at a convenient time. They will be able to help you decide which product will work for you and your home and provide specific answers relating to your property and lifestyle.

Your Home Lift questions answered

Q&A

Why should I consider a homelift rather than a stairlift?

A homelift is the ultimate future-proofing solution. A stairlift might seem like a good idea but what if a condition progresses to the point the user would find it impossible to get on and off a stairlift? With a homelift you can just step or wheel yourself in, and at the push of a button you're upstairs. No precarious perching on a seat at the top of the stairs!

How does a Stiltz differ from other homelifts?

A Stiltz Homelift has been developed specifically for use in the home – this isn't a commercial lift which has been retrospectively adapted into a homelift. Stiltz lifts also have some rather unique solutions. For instance, we have the ThruCar, perfect for wheelchair users as you can enter and exit the lift from opposite sides so there's no need to reverse into, or out of, the lift car.

Importantly, Stiltz manufacture, sell and install our own product. We do not rebadge or resell other companies' lifts.

Are you a UK-based company?

Yes. Stiltz Homelifts was founded in the UK. Our three main offices are in Berkshire, West Yorkshire, and the West Midlands. All the staff you'll talk to are based in the UK and research and development is carried out in our West Midlands headquarters. The homelifts are manufactured in our own factory in the Far East which is staffed 100% by Stiltz employees.

How easy is it to install the lift?

Very easy. We employ and train our own building and installation teams – Stiltz rarely use subcontractors. We carefully survey your property. Firstly, our Sales Advisor will visit and determine suitability, taking you through the lift ranges, pricing, and location options. Once you're happy to proceed, our Technical Surveyor will visit and thoroughly check your home to establish what needs to be done to ensure a successful installation. The notes they prepare will be used by our Operations Team to create a report for the builders and installers to work from. Everything is taken care of, even the lift which is modular and plugs into a dedicated standard domestic socket which we will install for you.

Now you CAN stay in the home you love

When children have flown the nest we can find ourselves wondering what the future might hold. Maybe we'd be better off in a smaller property? But what about all the memories and treasured belongings that surround us?

Downsizing is expensive and risky, moving home is stressful. If you love your home and you're surrounded by friends, family and an established support network, you might question whether moving is absolutely necessary. There's less pressure these days to downsize with a shift in opinion towards adapting the family home as we grow older. We call it 'aging in place'.

Today's mobility solutions are far more integrated than simply installing a functional handrail. Innovative and exciting products are emerging which are designed to discreetly adapt your home. This means it's possible to continue living in the family home without the worry of downsizing or moving house.

Stiltz Homelifts are at the forefront of the drive for aesthetics with their neat, discreet, quiet and life-changing domestic lifts. There really is no need for a stairlift that not only looks unattractive but provides a trip risk for others in the home who might use the stairs.

Design and styling is where a Stiltz Homelift really earns its stripes. Unlike any other homelift on the market the product's elegant look and feel has been designed to be admired but also to blend effortlessly into the background. Curved lines and a warm, soft, grey aluminium finish with a matching glazed lift car allows natural light to flood through the home. Subtle lighting will bring your lift to life whenever you step into it.

Queens award winners

In late April 2020 during the first lockdown, Stiltz Homelifts learned they had been awarded the Queen's Award for Enterprise: International Trade. For a young company who have become established and successful in the traditional world of accessibility products which isn't typically known for being design and innovation led, this was a big deal.

Stiltz Homelifts have led the field in creating products that help users live full and independent lives at home. And it is this which sets them apart. Other homelifts are adaptations of commercial products but a Stiltz Homelift is designed – from the ground up if you like – to be used specifically in the home. It is this passion for creating well-designed products that are as good to look at as they are to use which has so caught the public's imagination.

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*ask an adviser for details

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Dr Sageet Amlani
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Two months after the pain in her knees began, Claire was diagnosed with osteoarthritis – a condition that both her mother and grandmother had suffered from too.

Nothing seemed to soothe her knees

"The pain just took over almost overnight. My knees were so sore that I had to stop jogging, and within weeks, I was struggling just to walk. It was so demoralising, especially as I have a demanding job and was finding it hard to sleep too."

Claire tried to manage the pain by taking supplements and resting her legs as often as she could, but nothing seemed to soothe her sore knees. After six months of being inactive, she'd gained a stone, and was really finding it hard to cope with the constant pain and her limited mobility.

"As someone who is very active and values my fitness and independence, suddenly I was unfit, unhappy and vulnerable. To be honest, I just didn't feel like myself, and was utterly miserable."

In desperation, Claire visited her friend Sally, a sports therapist, for a massage, and when she broke down in tears, Sally vowed to help Claire find a way of dealing with the pain.

"A couple of days later, Sally called and told me that a colleague at the gym where she worked had used a product called *Suplex Gel* after he'd injured his shoulder working out. He'd described it as 'a game-changer' and a 'miracle cure' after putting up with months of constant pain.

"When I went online, I was amazed to see such positive testimonials from people who had used the gel – and what I liked the most was that the product was completely natural and had no harmful side effects."

Instant pain relief

Scientifically proven to reduce inflammation, *Suplex Gel* contains arnica, an anti-inflammatory, menthol and emu oil which are both believed to soothe pain, copper which boosts collagen, zinc which encourages tissue growth, and glucosamine and chondroitin, two nutrients that help to rebuild joint cartilage.

Not only is *Suplex Gel* quick-working and completely safe and natural, but it can be applied to any joints in the body; the knees, shoulders, wrists, hands and ankles. It is also proven to boost flexibility, increase mobility and to speed up recovery after an injury.

"The gel is supposed to offer instant pain relief, and to be honest, I was sceptical about such an extraordinary claim, but it really did work – and quickly too. It instantly took away the sharp pain and within a couple of days, I was pain-free," adds Claire.

"Six months on, I'm fitter than ever, and busy training for the London Marathon. *Suplex Gel* didn't just soothe my pain, it helped me get my life back and that's why I can't recommend it highly enough."

***Suplex Gel* is only available direct from the supplier, 1 tube for £19.00 + p&p. They are currently running a special discount promotion, buy 2 tubes and get 1 FREE tube. To order, call their FREEPHONE 0808 156 4981.**

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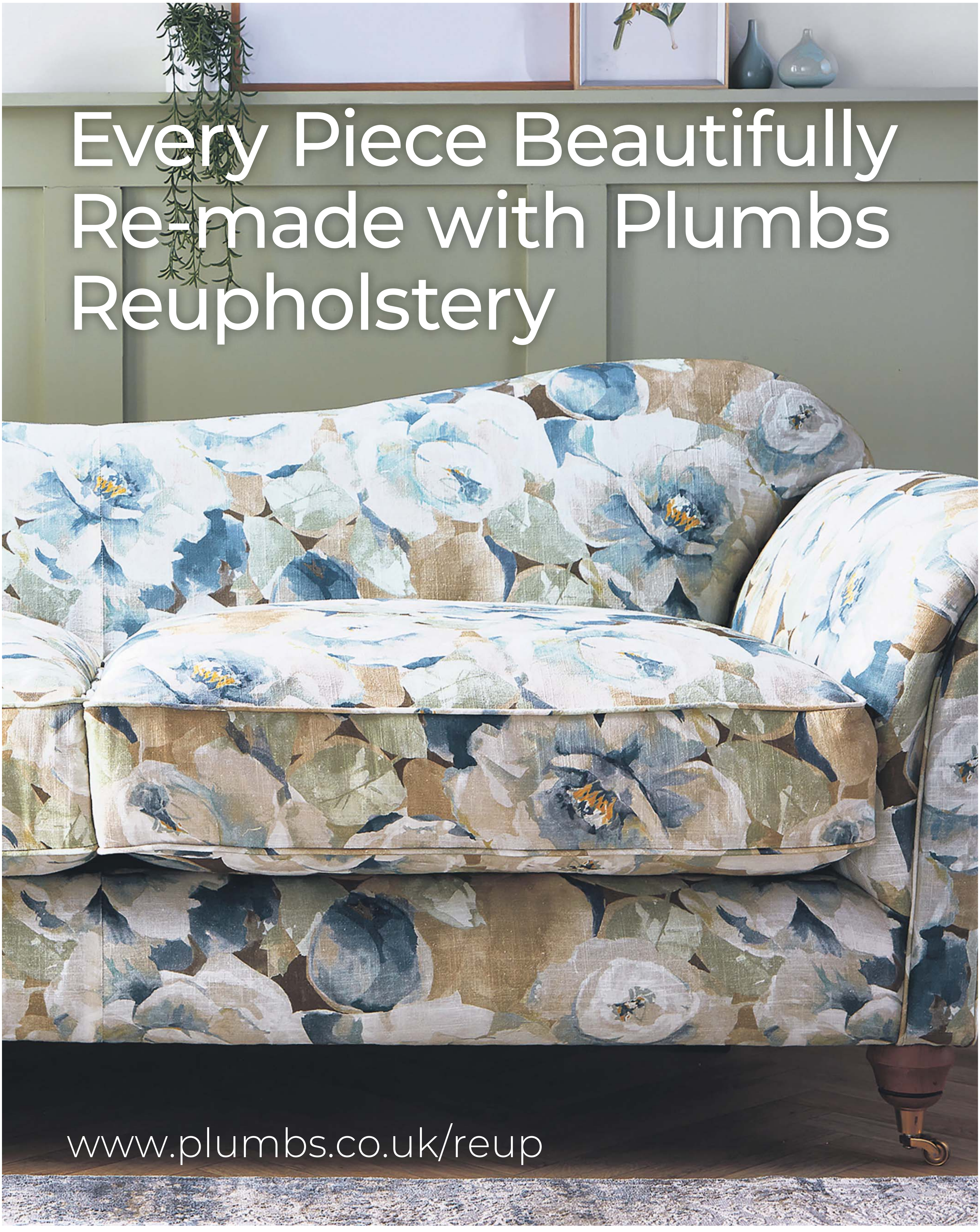
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Homes, Gardens and Interiors checklist

Here's a variety of ideas for the home or garden – whether they're to make better use of living space or for the family living in that space, these should fire up the imagination

Read more online! Visit *checklists.co.uk* and follow @checklistsocial

Cook traditional Italian pizza at home

Cook traditional-style Italian pizza at home with the Zio Ciro Oven – the ready to use and portable pizza oven that allows you to cook your way with gas or wood. Effective and efficient; it heats up to 450°C in just 40 minutes. 100% made in Italy using artisan methods and high-quality materials; both the top and dome are made entirely of refractory concrete which allows for extraordinary heat retention performance, even after you put the flame out.



Not just made to cook pizza; these ovens are versatile for numerous dishes. They come in two cooking options, whether you prefer using gas or wood to emphasise your flavours. The Subito Cotto 80 Oven is a great size for mobile trucks or a stunning addition to your garden or outdoor kitchen. It is bound to become the centrepiece of any garden this summer.



To order it today for just £3,350 (including VAT), use code COTTO80 at checkout. You will receive a Subito Cotto 80 Oven plus an Oven Stand (worth over £350) and their Pizza Starter Kit (worth over £100). You can choose from either red or white!

Their complimentary Starter Kit contains a pizza peel, pizza cutter, sauce ladle and two dough proofing boxes with a lid.

For more information call them on 01527 905349 or visit *pizzaequipment.co.uk/product/zio-ciro-subito-cotto-80-wood-or-gas-available*

Timber door experts

Doors of Distinction have been a specialist supplier of timber doors to retail and trade markets for over 20 years.

As a family-run business, they are committed to excellent customer service. Their extensive knowledge of the door market and long-established relationships with leading manufacturers enable them to offer high-quality and durable products at highly competitive prices.

Doors of Distinction's highly experienced and professionally trained team of door experts are always available to provide sound advice on a wide range of internal and external doors, as well as door ironmongery.

They offer a wide variety of design options for pre-hung door sets. In addition to the standard doors, certified options are available to meet FD30, FD30S, and PAS24 regulations. Door sets arrive pre-hung and ready to install, saving customers both time and money on installation.

Many of their doors are available in bespoke sizes, perfect for old buildings and filling awkward doorways without having to change the frame.





The extensive collection includes oak, walnut, pine, black, grey, and white primed internal doors, external doors, and a comprehensive selection of FD30 fire doors – all with FSC certification. They can offer highly competitive prices on their products because they constantly check prices against competitors to ensure customers get the best deals.

They offer a fast and reliable direct delivery service across mainland UK. For added convenience, there is a premium delivery service for customers who require even faster delivery or a particular time or day of the week.

Visit *doorsofdistinction.co.uk* to learn more.

Luxury massage chairs – comfort like never before

Discover E-Homestore's luxury DLUX massage chairs with multiple massage techniques, heating therapy and zero-gravity modes, all designed to help you relax.

The Model 2 comes with Bluetooth speakers and touch screen controls, while the Model 3 boasts AI voice and wireless phone charging.

To learn more, email *info@e-homestore.co.uk* or call 07977 551155 and use code OFF50LM23 to get 50% off now at *e-homestore.co.uk*


Model 3 - on sale for £2,499

MTL300 Break Secure® 3XP cylinder





Mul-T-Lock's MTL300 Break Secure® 3XP cylinder, offers homeowners the ultimate peace of mind, with a Police Preferred, independently tested solution to protect against cylinder manipulation attack.

Expertly developed and specifically designed for PVCu and timber doors, MTL300 Break Secure® 3XP provides four individual levels of enhanced mechanical protection. Incorporating patented technology, each element is designed to work in unison to safeguard homeowners against cylinder snapping and bumping attacks.

The cylinder has undergone rigorous testing to meet the Sold Secure Diamond SS312 Standard and achieves Police Preferred specification with Secure by Design.

MTL300 Break Secure® 3XP is one of only a few cylinder solutions to achieve the Kitemark British Standards Institution (BSi) TS007 three-star standard. It is also four times stronger than required when it comes to the accelerated life testing of the BS EN1303:2015 standard.

Claire Blakemore, Mul-T-Lock UK managing director, says: *"Home security is imperative to keep our family and belongings safe and secure. This is especially important during such economic uncertainty, where many are predicting an increase in crime.*

"The MTL300 Break Secure® 3XP offers such high security that insurance approval is guaranteed and will help keep premiums down at such a critical time."

They are so confident with MTL300 Break Secure® 3XP that it comes standard with a 10-year guarantee and a £3,000 consumer cashback guarantee (visit *mul-t-lock.co.uk* for full terms and conditions).

It can be keyed alike to other cylinder variants, including padlocks, to offer the ultimate convenience of a one-key house where one key can open all your doors, including sheds, gates and garages.

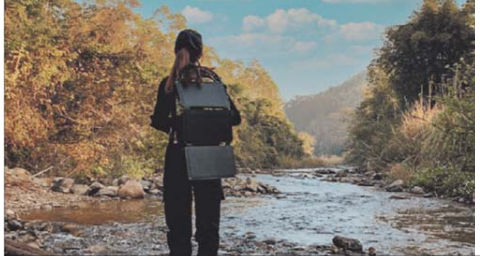
For the ultimate protection and total peace of mind, contact them today on 01902 364200, email *internalsales@mul-t-lock.co.uk*, or visit *mul-t-lock.co.uk* for details of your local Mul-T-Lock Authorised Locksmith.

Charging devices on the go

Ever found yourself with low battery and nowhere to charge your phone? The new Adventurer Range of Solar Chargers from Excel Power has arrived and offers a convenient and environmentally friendly way to charge devices on the go.

Available in power outputs from 14W to 200W; there is a solar charger to suit any device. The smaller chargers come with a multitude of connecters so you can charge your iPhone, android or tablet directly. They are fully weatherproof so they can be used with year-round sun.





The larger units have an MC4 compatible connection, so you can choose the cable to suit your needs. These units are great for charging higher power devices such as portable power stations and power banks.

Excel Power also offer a range of more traditional portable solar panels, from robust aluminium framed panels to more lightweight options for ease of use. They are all foldable and easy to store – ideal for keeping as an emergency power source for power cuts or to store the sun's energy directly into your phone or other battery-powered items to reduce bills.

Visit Hampshire Generators and use code CH5 for an exclusive 5% discount on any of the Excel Power solar panels at *hampshiregenerators.co.uk*

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How to trim hedges



STIHL have designed and manufactured power tools since 1926, and they have a series of recommendations for trimming your hedges this season.

1. The Royal Horticultural Society suggest pruning new hedges in winter or early spring. Once established, informal hedges need trimming between spring and summer. Formal hedges need a second, and sometimes third trim later in the year.
2. Before you begin, take time to thoroughly check that there are no nesting birds.
3. For your safety, wear googles and sturdy boots. Clear away any trip hazards before you start.
4. When using a hedge trimmer, keep the blade parallel to the hedge and use a wide, arc-shaped sweeping action, working from the bottom of the hedge upwards, so that the cut foliage falls away. Keep movements above your head to a minimum.
5. Choose the right equipment for the job. Low weight, low vibration, and low noise; STIHL's AK System of battery hedge trimmers offer unrivalled comfort and performance.

STIHL HSA 50 – perfect for trimming medium-sized garden hedges and green material up to 16mm in diameter, it features an impressive 50cm blade for fast cutting and a precise, flat finish. The HSA 50 set is priced at £265, including the battery and charger.

STIHL HSA 60 – designed for demanding use in larger gardens, the HSA 60 is the first domestic hedge trimmer to offer a rotating rear handle and anti-vibration system. Ideal for use with long, tall hedges with occasional thicker branches, its rotating rear handle can lock into three positions across a 180° range making trimming sides and tops of hedges much easier. The HSA 60 set is priced at £320, including the battery and charger.

STIHL HLA 56 – this lightweight and well-balanced cordless long-reach hedge trimmer is ideal for tackling taller hedges and shrubs. The angle of the head can be changed from -45° to +90° for a precise and uniform finish, in even the hardest to reach areas. It's priced from £225 for the tool only.

To shop STIHL's cordless hedge trimmers, visit *stihl.co.uk*

Crown your garden in 2023 with EverEdge

Undoubtedly the best solution for edging your garden borders; EverEdge offer the perfect way to stop borders from falling, keeping them looking perfect and giving you more time to enjoy your weekend. Their borders are offered in different depths, lengths, thicknesses and colours to suit your taste or design.

Family owned and run, EverEdge is manufactured in the UK using recycled materials and is 100% recyclable, so it's the perfect way to crown your garden this summer. You can also feel good knowing that you are doing your part in caring for the planet.

EVEREDGE®

Visit *everedge.co.uk* for details of their products, including planters and trellises too.



Save £5 and protect your back and knees with the OneLeg stool

OneLeg® stool by susanne schmidt

The ergonomic and functional OneLeg stool enables you to sit – rather than kneel – when completing lower-down tasks around your home and garden. Its rounded base allows you to rock and tilt as you sit, helping to protect your back, increase your reach and strengthen your core – while preventing discomfort in your knees.

The OneLeg stool is weatherproof, impact-resistant, lightweight and easy to clean. It's also 100% recyclable and comes in two heights and a range of colours, with a silicone anti-slip foot. You can even add a seat cover for extra comfort.

One happy customer said: *"A gamechanger! What a brilliant little stool. Can't wait for gardening to start with a vengeance!"*

Once you try a OneLeg, you'll wonder how you lived without one.



Use code AHCLIST0523 to get £5 off at *oneleg.co.uk* or for more information, call 0800 195 4252 or email *oneleginfo@oneleg.co.uk*



Showcase your garden with glass room pergolas

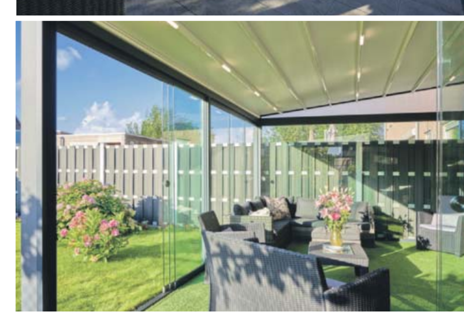


Blakesleys are a family-run, UK-based business offering a wide range of garden furniture and pergolas to showcase your garden.

- Award-winning pergolas
- Bespoke sizes available
- Louvred, retractable and lean-to roofs
- Free delivery
- UK-run family business
- 10-year warranty
- Easy install
- High-grade materials
- Superior workmanship
- No planning permission or surveys required.

Deponti Skyline Aluminium Pergola Veranda

Starting at £3,299, the Deponti Skyline Aluminium Pergola Veranda is Blakesleys' most popular and bestselling model due to a great price-quality ratio. It offers great freedom of choice in appearance and possibilities. The Skyline is unique due to the structure being designed for glass roofs, while other pergolas in the Deponti range can only have a polycarbonate roof, which makes this a show piece for anyone's garden.



This veranda can easily be interlinked, and due to this the skyline is available in virtually any width, to seamlessly fit any garden. The glass sliding door system also protects against rain and cold. This allows you to enjoy the ultimate outdoor feeling, even in bad weather. On top of this, the Skyline also offers some sound reduction.

Blakesleys

Blakesleys offer a full installation service for all products. For a quick quote text or WhatsApp 07774 251093 or call the team on 0130 828 7677. Visit *blakesleys.com* to explore the range and use code CHECKLIST10 for an exclusive 10% off.



Win a full gazebo package with three-way heater

Worth over £450!

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Bulhawk are a leading supplier of competitively priced heavy-duty pop-up gazebos that come in a variety of sizes and colours. The full range includes steel and aluminium models which are suited to both domestic and commercial purposes. Also on offer is a selection of accessories such as leg weights, storage bags, heaters and portable flooring. Bespoke printing services are also available.

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Health and Wellbeing checklist ☑

Your body is precious and it pays to look after yourself.
Here are a variety of ideas to be – and stay – healthy

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Invest in yourself with personalised supplements. With bioniq, the package includes a comprehensive blood test, nutrition consultation, three-month supply of bioniq delivered to your home, and their app, where you can view your results and track your progress.

Join bioniq at *bioniq.com* and receive 10% off with code CHECKLIST10



Lightweight outdoor and off-road rollators

Assist Mobility are proud to introduce the Danish byACRE ULTRALIGHT rollator, weighing just 4.8kg (10.6 lbs). Key features include lightness, upright walking position, build quality and stylish design, with no visible brake cables.

Made from carbon fibre, with an infinite warranty on the frame, the ULTRALIGHT is lightweight, yet tough and durable. The unique forward-facing ergonomic handles encourage good posture, enabling the user to walk more upright.

If you're looking for an off-road rollator, the alternative OVERLAND with air-filled pneumatic tyres has the exacting features of the ULTRALIGHT, yet is designed to tackle harsh terrains, beaches, forests and wet rugged trails with ease, weighing only 6.7kg (14.8lbs).

Arrives fully assembled with organiser bag and travel lock. Accessories available.





ASSIST MOBILITY

For a brochure call 020 8638 6308 or visit *assistmobility.co.uk/spring*

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Your private practice specialises in cardiac electrophysiology. Could you explain the significance of Atrial Fibrillation (AF) ablation in your work?

Dr. Finlay: *"AF ablation is a game-changing procedure for patients dealing with atrial fibrillation. It's aimed at restoring a patient's normal heart rhythm, significantly enhancing their overall quality of life."*

How critical is timing when it comes to these heart rhythm issues?

"Prompt intervention can make all the difference. It not only helps manage symptoms but also potentially reduces stroke risk. The sooner we can address these issues, the better the outcomes tend to be. Now that we can perform this treatment in under an hour, safely, and get home the same day, this treatment can be ideal for so many people suffering from irregular heartbeats."

Why should someone opt for private treatment for AF ablation over an NHS procedure?

"While the NHS provides excellent care, opting for private treatment means quicker access to services, flexible scheduling, and more personalised care. Extended consultations are also possible, plus the confidence of knowing that your consultant will be the one undertaking your procedure."

What makes your private practice stand out in this regard?

"My approach combines patient-centred care with cutting-edge technology. I prioritise ensuring that each patient fully understands their condition and the treatment options available. Safety is my top priority during procedures, above all else. Plus, my work developing new medical technologies allows me to bring a unique perspective to patient care."

How can readers reach you if they're interested in exploring treatment?

Dr. Finlay: *"Patients can contact me directly via email or phone. If you're experiencing heart rhythm problems, don't hesitate to reach out. Let's address your condition promptly, and together, we can create an effective treatment plan."*

Dr Finlay sees patients at One Welbeck Hospital in central London. Contact him via his secretary on 07732956761 or at *tara.reading@hcaconsultant.co.uk*
For more information, visit *drmalcolmfinlay.com*

Chinese medicine in the 21st century

The body can best protect itself when treated with respect and enabled to provide solutions. Traditional and modern Chinese therapies working in synergy with conventional Western medicine can enable the body to find its own solutions in a calm and constructive manner.

At Acu-Synergy Chinese Medicine Centre, exciting new acupuncture treatments working with more traditional Chinese medicine concepts are applied in a sympathetic and holistic environment, allowing the patient to relax and find power within their body to achieve their goals.

Li Ping Bartlett runs this innovative clinic in the Harley Street Medical Area and practices in modern and traditional acupuncture as well as traditional Chinese herbal medicine.

She is a Licenced Acupuncturist with more than 30 years' experience, and is privileged to have many highly discerning patients from around the world among her clientele. She is also licenced to carry out Morpheus8 RF Needling skin-tightening treatments.



Acu-Synergy

MORPHEUS8

Contact Li Ping at *liping@acusynergy.co.uk* or visit *acusynergy.co.uk* to find out more.

Saving heat – improving indoor air quality

Vent-Axia



With the energy crisis, many are taking measures to improve their home's energy efficiency. Whilst adding insulation or blocking holes causing draughts can help save energy, this can detrimentally affect a home's air quality by sealing it and reducing ventilation. Meanwhile, turning down heating can cause more condensation and mould, which is unsightly and damaging to homes and health. Vent-Axia can help you solve this with effective, discreet, easy-to-install ventilation with heat recovery, which extracts indoor pollutants, delivering fresh air whilst recovering heat to keep homes warmer at reduced costs.

Vent-Axia's Lo-Carbon Heat Save, a decentralised heat recovery ventilation unit, is ideal for retrofitting since the unit simply goes through an external wall. Providing fresh supply air, Heat Save also extracts pollutants and moisture from the home, all whilst recovering the heat from the air, so helping to reduce heating bills.

Studies show that people spend 90% of their time indoors, with air five times more polluted than outdoor air which is linked to poor health[1]. Heat Save improves the air in the home, reducing indoor air pollution and supplying fresh air to rooms without cold draughts. The units extract dirty air from a room, replacing it with outside air passed through a filter to help ensure only clean air enters the room, with the added benefit of heat recovery.

For households, Heat Save offers 'fresh air without the breeze' – no need to open windows or to lose heat. It is also highly energy efficient and costs very little to run, vital during the cost-of-living crisis. Heat Save therefore offers the ideal solution for anyone thinking of improving their home, delivering improved indoor air quality for health, preventing heat loss and reducing energy bills.

Call 0344 856 0590 or visit *vent-axia.com/heatsave* and find out more.

1. The National Human Activity Pattern Survey (NHAPS): a resource for assessing exposure to environmental pollutants, by Neil E Klepeis et al.

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The centre of surgical excellence dedicated to looking after your eyes



sana

You can look to the future with confidence as the newest private eye hospital opens in South Wales.

Sana opened in February of this year and was inspired by the need to deliver surgical excellence across all aspects of ophthalmology. Sana serves all those who live in South and West Wales, offering all available diagnostic and surgical treatments for any eye condition.

Sana was created by Mr Luke Anderson and Mr Mario Saldanha, both ophthalmic consultants with exceptional experience. They work with leading ophthalmologists including Mr Sidath Wijetilleka and Mr Yih-Horng Tham.

Following seven years of ophthalmic specialist training in South Wales, Mr Wijetilleka gained an Advanced Medical Training Fellowship in vitreoretinal surgery. Mr Tham is an award-winning Consultant Ophthalmologist who has trained in several world-renowned eye units including Moorfields Eye Hospital.


Mr. Sidath Wijetilleka


Mr. Yih-Horng Tham

At Sana, they are committed to being at the forefront of modern, private eye care. The have built a state-of-the-art hospital, conveniently located in Swansea, South Wales, and provide the very highest quality treatment and care for patients with acute eye problems and long-term eye conditions.

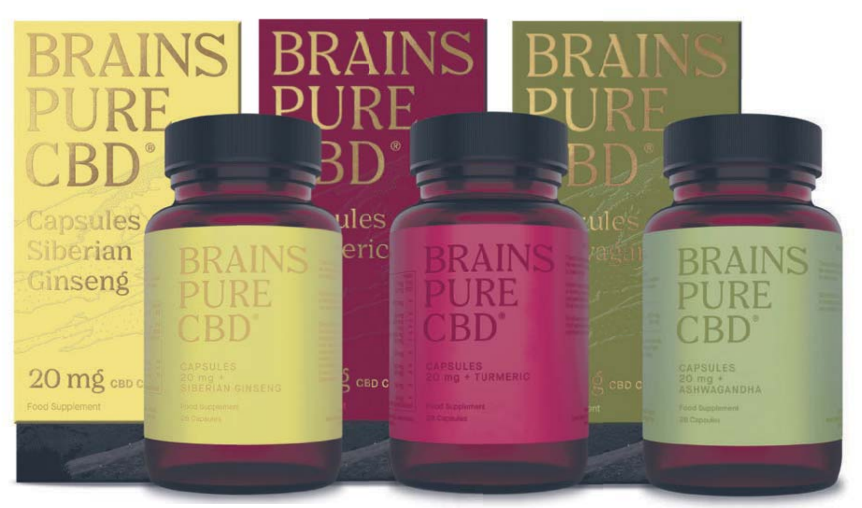
There are many different treatments for the various conditions that can affect your eyes. Some of the conditions for which eye surgery may be recommended include cataracts, glaucoma, diabetic retinopathy and lens replacement for severe near or far sightedness. Sana also offer corneal surgery including transplants, retinal surgery and ocular plastics.

Sana are the only private hospital able to offer a comprehensive range of different eye surgeries to treat a variety of eye conditions and diseases. Each surgery is tailored to your individual needs and will form part of your bespoke treatment plan.

Whether you need help deciding what is right for you, you are ready to get started, or you are looking for support, the Sana team are here.

Visit *sana-health.co.uk* to find out more. Call 0333 996 0999 or email *hello@sana-health.co.uk* to get in touch with the team today.

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Now available in Holland & Barrett stores and online at *hollandandbarrett.com/shop/brands/brains-pure-cbd*

Global healthcare provider specialising in cosmetic procedures and health checks launches in the UK





Acibadem, a global healthcare leader and part of the world's second largest healthcare network, has launched its first UK information office to bring its world-class private healthcare ecosystem to British patients for the first time.

World-class private healthcare ecosystem comes to the UK

The launch of its first UK information office, located in west London, makes it possible for people in the UK to access Acibadem's world-leading specialists and state-of-the-art medical technology.

Holidays and health checks

Acibadem offers a wide variety of treatments and cosmetic procedures from hair transplants, breast augmentation and face lifts to fully personalised health check-ups for those wanting to screen for potential diseases and risks as part of a relaxing holiday experience.

Setting the gold standard for private healthcare

In 2012, Acibadem signed into a joint partnership with IHH Healthcare, making it part of the world's second largest healthcare chain. Five Acibadem Hospitals are accredited by Joint Commission International (JCI), the international gold standard for quality and patient safety. Acibadem raises the bar for patient care with a full suite of integrated healthcare services by combining leading experts and technology with the contemporary sophistication of a five-star hotel.





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For more information and to book your appointment visit *acibademinternational.com* or visit the new Health Point office at 68 Great Portland St, London, W1W 7NG. Contact the team by phone on 020 7323 6665 or email *london@acibadem.com*

Are you suffering with your back?

Living Room Health

In the UK – 80% of people will suffer spinal complaints at some point in their lives, that's four out of five people[1].



A chronic back issue is where the discomfort has not gone away for more than six weeks — it can have a very negative impact on the quality of life, stopping you from doing the things you enjoy. Obtaining a clear diagnosis of the problem with treatment options can also be difficult and slow, causing more frustration and misery.

Living Room Health can help. Working with world-renowned spinal clinicians and access to MRI scanners — they can provide you with a diagnostic scan, radiology report and a consultation, all on the same day, at their new clinical facility in Paddington. A specialist consultant will talk you through your MRI scan report and discuss appropriate treatment options.

Start your journey to recovery

Call today to book an MRI, price from £325. Consultation from £150. Get an exclusive 20% off with code HEALTH20*.

Phone the team on 0330 580 1153 or visit *livingroom.health* to find out more.

1. The Rising Prevalence of Chronic Low Back Pain, by Janet K Freburger et al. *Terms and conditions apply. Offer of 20% off available up to 31 May 2023.



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Travel

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'The hotel's ambition is to provide a level of exclusivity this city has not seen before'

Alicia Miller stays at Tel Aviv's latest opening, the R48

ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES



The harbour at Hvar Town

Chic places to stay in Croatia

From hillside suites in the Zadar archipelago to a Dubrovnik palace, Mary Novakovich has some fabulous summer options

Sultry summer nights listening to Dalmatian a cappella singers, watching fishermen bring in a catch that will end up on your plate in a few hours, swimming in waters so clear you can count the pebbles … I still sigh over the pleasures of holidaying in Croatia nearly 50 years after my first visit.

And my mind still boggles at the sheer variety of places to stay in this relatively small country: tiny pine-forested islands, medieval hilltop villages surrounded by olive groves, limestone cliffs towering over rocky coves, a coastline that rambles for more than 1,000 miles with plenty of detours along the way. Once you've narrowed down your choice of destination, the fun begins. How on earth do you choose where to stay? Croatia's hotel scene has been booming over the past few years, with a rush of new hotels and refurbishments. Tired old hotels that had seen better days have been not just revamped but reinvented, banishing memories of Tito-era cheap furnishings and indifferent buffets. Historic buildings that had been left in ruins have been given a new lease of life, from former monasteries to old family homes that have been rescued from dereliction.

Now you can choose architectural splendour with captivating views of the Adriatic, or a 300-year-old stone farmhouse high in the karst hills. Stay in a Venetian-style townhouse in the heart of one of Croatia's most beautiful towns, or on a tiny island in a four-suite boutique hotel with a private pool. Look out over vineyards and olive groves from a restored village house, or enjoy a local tipple beside an infinity pool and the spa of a sleek five-star resort — all the while feasting on fabulous Croatian cuisine that is the taste of the Mediterranean. If you're on the lookout for a gorgeous and



Zori Timeless Hotel, Palmizana

Great hotels next page

interesting place to stay in Croatia this year, take some inspiration from this collection of the new, nearly new and newly revived.

ISLANDS

Zuviteo Residence Korcula

A fascinating time in Croatian history came to life in 2020 when the Zuviteo family's 14th-century stone house was restored and turned into a beautiful boutique hotel within the old town walls on the Dalmatian island of Korcula. It's an exquisite collection of five rooms, with stylish modern decor framed by exposed stone walls and white ceiling beams. Pick one of the four with balconies or terraces and you'll be transported into the heart of Korculanski life.

Details Seven nights' B&B from £1,135pp, including flights and transfers (sunvil.co.uk)

Beach Bay Hotel Hvar

This boutique hotel on the popular island of Hvar already had its location on Hvar Town's Kriza beach going for it, and its reinvention last summer has made it even more desirable. The 33 nicely understated rooms and suites have balconies and views of the beach and Hvar's 15th-century Franciscan monastery, while pale rattan furnishings and floor-to-ceiling windows give off beach house vibes. Flop on the fat sunloungers on the terrace while you take in the views to the Pakleni islands.

Details B&B doubles from £220 (suncanihvar.com). Fly to Split, then take the ferry to Hvar Town

Valamar Amicor Green Resort Hvar

Stari Grad, the quieter alternative to Hvar Town, welcomed this new family-focused resort last summer on the northern side of the town's deep harbour. Its 41 villas have terraces and sunbeds — and a few have plunge pools — to which to retire after larking about in the waterpark, three outdoor pools, playgrounds and sports park. The green in the resort's name isn't lip service: 100 per cent of its energy comes from renewable sources.

Details Half-board doubles from £190 (valamar.com). Fly to Split, then take the ferry to Stari Grad

Maslina Resort Hvar

An atmosphere of Zen-like calm pervades this relatively recent arrival, where the slogan is "mindful luxury". Overlooking Maslinica Bay, about 20 minutes' walk from Stari Grad, it was built to blend into the surrounding pine forest and olive trees, and combines French and Mediterranean flair with Asian minimalism in 50 rooms and suites and three gorgeous villas. Retreat to the well-equipped spa, chill out by the outdoor pools and pebbly beach, and borrow a wooden bike to explore further.

Details B&B doubles from £435 (maslinaresort.com). Fly to Split, then take the ferry to Stari Grad

Zori Timeless Hotel Palmizana, Pakleni islands

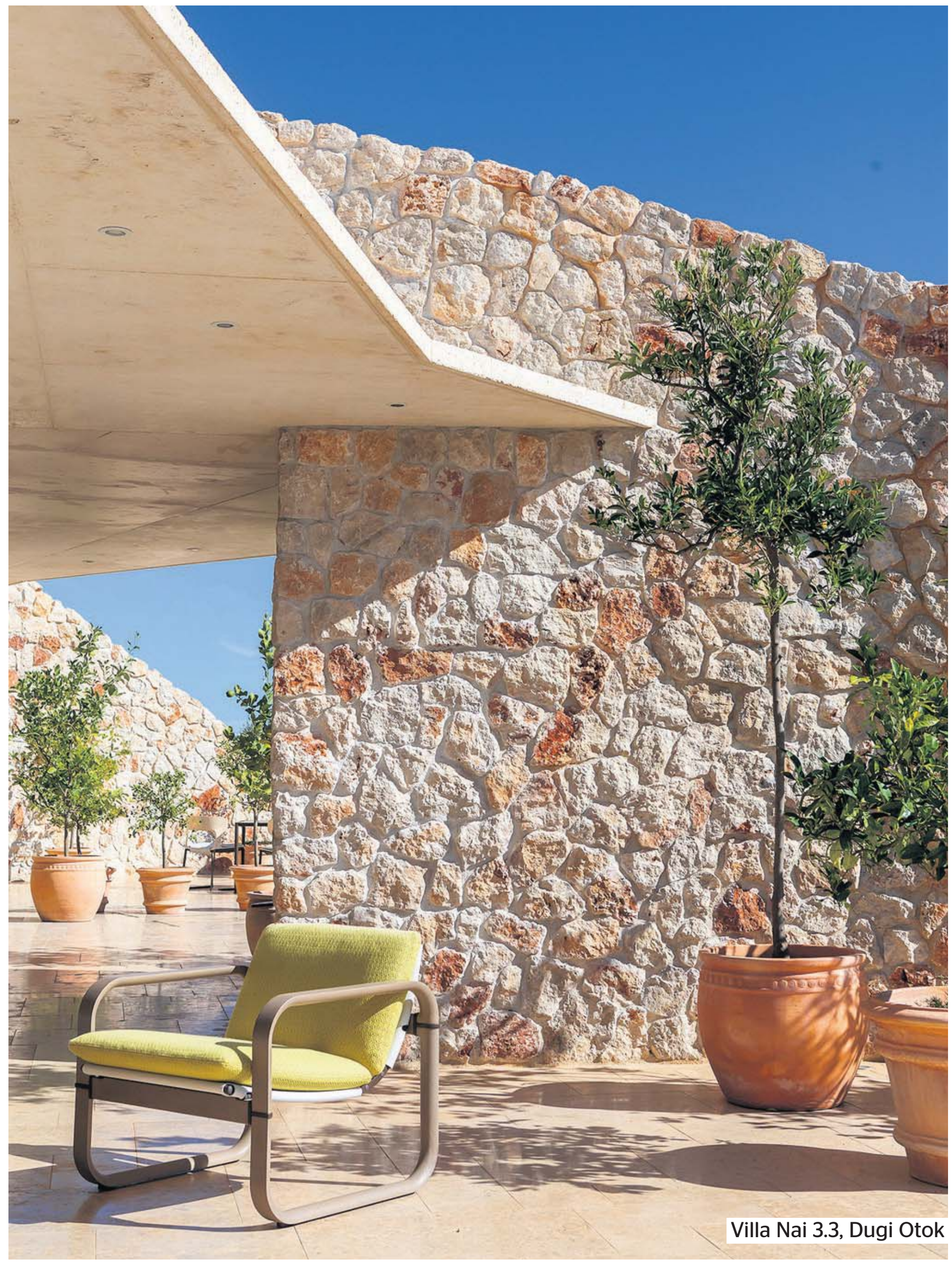
The Pakleni islands, so loved by Hvar daytrippers, have a brand new luxury hotel that lives up to the word "boutique". The Zori, on Sveti Klement, has four suites, each one luxurious, cosseting and generously sized, with a huge outdoor terrace, hammocks, sofas, dining tables and a private pool and/or hot tub. There's superb innovative Croatian and international cuisine in the renowned restaurant, which has been in the same family for more than 70 years, and sublime views of Palmizana's turquoise bay to go with it.

Details B&B doubles from £1,370; minimum three-night booking (zori.hr). Fly to Split, then take the ferry to Hvar Town

Dunatovi Dvori Heritage Hotel Ugljan

A 25-minute ferry ride from Zadar, on the north Dalmatian coast, brings you to Ugljan, a sleepy island of olive groves, beaches and biking trails. Since last summer the island has been home to the four-star Dunatovi Dvori Heritage Hotel, in a 1912 townhouse by Preko's marina and beach. Many of its 14 modern rooms have warm exposed-brick walls, French windows and lovely sea views; the garden room has its own terrace. Lounge around the heated pool after sampling Dalmatian cuisine prepared by the chef and owner Stjepan Dunatov, whose family are from the island.

Details Room-only doubles from £112; minimum two-night stay (dunatovi-dvori.hr). Fly to Zadar, then take the ferry to Preko



Villa Nai 3.3, Dugi Otok



Villa Nai 3.3 Dugi Otok

This luxurious retreat made waves when it opened two years ago on this otherwise rustic island in the Zadar



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ISTOCKPHOTO/GETTY IMAGES; LIDIJA LOLIC; RALF JUERGENS


Maslina Resort, Hvar


Grand Hotel Brioni, Pula


Hotel Osmolis, Zaton

archipelago. Carved into the hillside, its eight sumptuous rooms and suites fan out in front of olive groves that have been in the owner Goran Morovic's family for centuries. The infinity pool has serene views, and the hotel's award-winning olive oils grace dishes at its fine-dining and grill restaurants.
Details B&B doubles from £516 (villania.com). Fly to Zadar, then take the ferry to Sali

COAST

Hotel Supetar Cavtat

Last summer's renovation has transformed Hotel Supetar from an old stalwart that had seen better days into a stylish boutique hotel in one of Dalmatia's most appealing towns, 13 miles south of Dubrovnik. Behind the mellow stone walls of a century-old villa are 16 airy rooms with an English country cottage-meets-breezy Mediterranean feel. The location on Cavtat's waterfront comes into its own when you're dining in the rooftop restaurant and revelling in the views. A pool terrace, garden and intimate wine bar further ramp up the romance.
Details B&B doubles from £326 (adriaticluxuryhotels.com). Fly to Dubrovnik

Hotel Osmolis Zaton

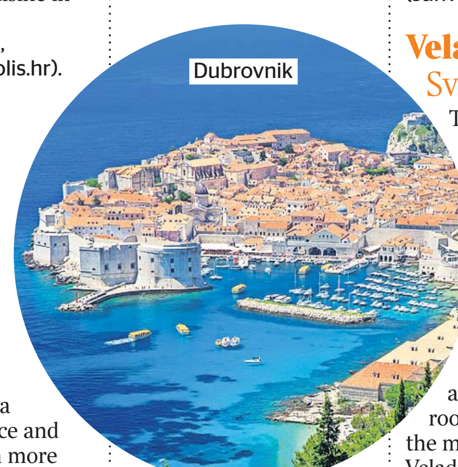
You'll need a car to make the most of this modern, family-run hotel, which opened last year in the seaside hamlet of Brsecine, near the Trsteno Arboretum, 13 miles north of Dubrovnik. But you'll be amply rewarded with peaceful views of the Elaphiti islands, dotted about the Adriatic. The 24 contemporary rooms all have sea-facing balconies, while the four suites each feature a private pool or a hot tub. You see the same glorious views from the outdoor pool, which blends smoothly into the indoor pool and spa. Feast on Dalmatian cuisine in the smart restaurant.
Details B&B doubles from £165, minimum two-night stay (osmolis.hr). Fly to Dubrovnik

Aminess Khalani Beach Hotel Makarska

It was only last year that Makarska got its first five-star offering: this modern, 299-room beach hotel, a 30-minute walk from the centre. When you're not lazing on its stretch of beach, soak up the sea views from the enormous terrace and three pools. The vistas are even more impressive from the rooftop bar and restaurant, backed by the majesty of the Biokovo mountains. Full-length windows bring light into the spa, which has an indoor pool, a hot tub and sauna.
Details Seven nights' B&B from £804pp, including flights and transfers (jet2.com)

Hotel Milenij Makarska

There's more than a hint of art deco to the façade of Makarska's latest four-star hotel. Splashes of colour liven up the 21 low-key rooms. Book one with a balcony facing the sea. The broad sweep of Makarska's main pebbly beach is right in front of the hotel, where you'll also find the attractive restaurant terrace and a selection of Dalmatian specialities.
Details Seven nights' B&B from £796pp, including flights and transfers (sunvil.co.uk)


Dubrovnik

Veladrion Resort Sveti Juraj

The wild coastline between the Kvarner Gulf and the Velebit mountains isn't the first place you would expect to find a five-star resort, but this luxurious outpost opened here this spring, on the shores of an inlet 50 miles south of Rijeka. The stately, adults-only hotel has landscaped gardens, gazebos, indoor and outdoor pools, a spa, a restaurant and a beach bar, and its 19 elegant rooms (including a treehouse) make the most of the wonderful sea views. Veladrion's boats can also ferry you around the Kvarner islands.
Details B&B doubles from £325 (veladrion.com). Fly to Rijeka

Palazzo Rainis Hotel & Spa Novigrad

Old and new mingle harmoniously at this elegant, adults-only boutique hotel, which opened last year near Novigrad's marina in a carefully reconstructed villa that once belonged to a 19th-century Venetian chemist; there's also a sympathetically designed modern annexe. An overall feeling of serenity extends to the 16 rooms and suites, which mix modern design with mid-century touches, and most have balconies and views over the sea and pool terrace. The restaurant showcases superior Istrian cuisine, while the compact spa has a sauna and a hot tub.
Details B&B doubles from £312 (palazzorainis.com). Fly to Pula or Trieste

Grand Hotel Brioni Pula, Istria

The reopening of this formerly derelict hotel last summer revived a slice of Seventies Yugoslav history. Many of the 227 refined rooms have views of the Adriatic and Brijuni National Park islands as well as the infinity pool and beach. Floor-to-ceiling windows everywhere make the most of the sunlight, including at the spa's indoor pool. The five restaurants and bars offer variations on Mediterranean cuisine and capitalise on the views.
Details Seven nights' room-only from £1,140pp, including flights (thomascook.com)

Hilton Rijeka Hotel Marinus Marina, near Trogir

About nine miles west of Trogir is the four-star Hotel Marinus, which opened last year in the small village of Marina. All but three of its 28 modern rooms have balconies where you can chill out and take in the views of this quiet inlet and the hills beyond. Flop on the terrace by the infinity pool, unwind in the spa's indoor pool or grab a sunlounger on the pebbly beach right in front of the hotel. Order cocktails from the sophisticated Marinus Beach Bar before tasting Dalmatian cuisine in Oblica restaurant.
Details B&B doubles from £214 (hotelmarinus.com). Fly to Split

Arena One 99 Glamping Pomer, Istria

Istria is campsite central, but Arena One 99 Glamping offers a little more luxury. Here, just outside the village of Pomer and a ten-minute drive south of Pula, fully equipped lodge tents are tucked within a cooling pine forest facing its own stretch of pebbly beach. Everything's set for a relaxing stay in nature: air-conditioned lodges, a spa with hot tubs and saunas, an outdoor yoga platform, ceramic workshops, a windsurfing school, beach bars and a restaurant, as well as clubs for children and teenagers.
Details Self-catering lodge tents from £94; minimum three-night stay (arenacampsites.com). Fly to Pula

RURAL

Emotheo Heritage Hotel Imotski

The gorgeous limestone lakes of Imotski are Croatia's newest Unesco Global Geopark and the most striking of them, Blue Lake, is only 50 yards from this hotel. Inside a smooth structure of creamy Dalmatian stone are smart rooms of warm wood and the same vivid blue as the lake. The restaurant is just as

More hotels next page

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Fly to Copenhagen then spend two days sampling the Danish cuisine and exploring the churches, museums and stunning architecture.

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Days 5-6 **Relaxing at sea**

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This beautiful quaint town offers opportunities to visit Jökulsárlón, a magical glacial lagoon.

Day 8 **Vopnafjorour**

Day 9 **Akureyri**
Choose a trip to Godafoss, one of the most spectacular waterfalls in Iceland, and enjoy a geothermal dip in the natural baths.

Day 10 **Isafjordur**

Day 11 **Akranes**

Day 12 **Heimaey, Westman Islands**
The island is ringed by tall, vertical sea cliffs many hundreds of feet high and home to over eight million Atlantic puffins.

Days 13-14 **Relaxing at sea**

Day 15 **Kristiansand, Norway**

Day 16 **Skagen, Denmark**

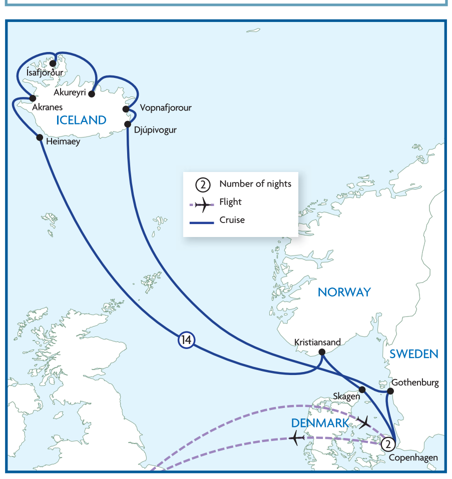
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Day 4 **Crete**

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The history of Ephesus is rich and diverse, stroll the winding streets to discover the monumental ruins.

Day 6 **Mykonos, Greece**
Explore whitewashed houses, domed churches, imposing windmills, and a labyrinth of winding streets.

Day 7 **Skopelos**

Day 8 **Skiathos**
Best known for its beaches, choose to head to secluded pristine sands accessible only by small boats.

Day 9 **Tenedos, Turkey**

Day 10 **Istanbul**
Disembark Seabourn Encore and spend time discovering the many gems of the city including the Blue Mosque, Topkapi Palace and Grand Bazaar.

Day 11 **Fly home to the UK**
Transfer to the airport for your flight home.

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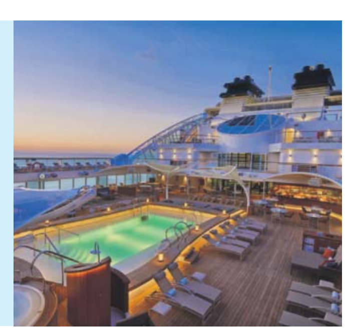
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Hotel Ambasador, Split

▶ smart and does a modern take on Dalmatian dishes. It's a 45-minute drive from the coast at Makarska, but you'll be in the heart of Dalmatia's hinterland and ten minutes from the Bosnian border.
Details Room-only doubles from £125 (emotheo.hr). Fly to Split

San Canzian Village & Hotel Istria

Deep within Istria's rugged interior, near Buje, this upscale collection of restored stone houses gives a heady flavour of rural life in this land of medieval hilltop villages and woods teeming with truffles. Surrounded by olive groves, vineyards and pine forests, the houses cluster around a destination restaurant (run by the team behind Michelin-starred Noel in Zagreb) and a beautifully landscaped pool terrace. The 24 rooms and suites have all the understated luxury you want in a chic countryside retreat. Book the two-level Villa San Canzian with its own plunge pool.
Details B&B doubles from £300; minimum two-night stay (san-canzian.hr). Fly to Pula or Trieste

Hotel Balatura Tribalj

High in the karst hills above the Kvarner Gulf, the Croatian-German Godec family opened this rustic-chic hotel in a 300-year-old stone farmhouse in 2008, adding other previously abandoned buildings in the tiny village, along with an outdoor pool and a gallery, along the way. The result is a delightfully bohemian hideaway with exposed stone



San Canzian Village & Hotel, Istria

walls, beamed ceilings, antique furnishings and a convivial garden courtyard. A half-hour drive from Rijeka, it hosts regular cultural events, workshops and yoga retreats and has a vegetarian restaurant — a rarity in these parts.
Details Room-only doubles from £98 (hotel-balatura.hr). Fly to Rijeka

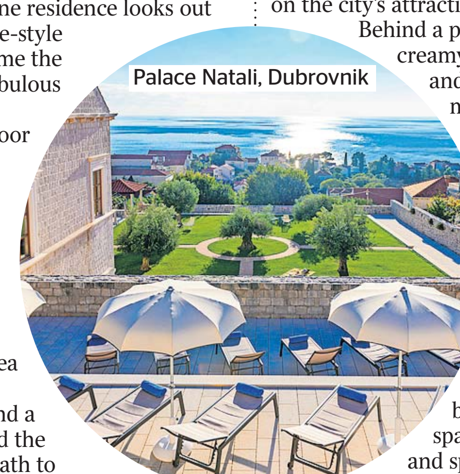
CITIES

Zonar Hotel Zagreb

What used to be the old Hotel Panorama has been transformed into the sleek four-star Zonar Zagreb, which opened this year near the Botanical Garden. Its 285 modern rooms maximise views of the city, some featuring standalone baths and even an indoor swing. The star of the hotel is the rooftop pool 19 storeys up, along with the Cherry Pop bar, where the views over the Croatian capital are spectacular. Refuel at the Skinny Pig à la carte restaurant or Skinny Pig steakhouse after a workout in the amusingly named Cheeky Buns Fitness Studio.
Details Room-only doubles from £108 (maistra.com). Fly to Zagreb

Palace Natali Dubrovnik

From its lofty position below Mount Srd, the new Palace Natali lords it over Dubrovnik old town. Which is apt, really, because the hotel was originally the 16th-century summer home of the aristocratic Natali family. Now this scrubbed-up stone residence looks out over Renaissance-style gardens that frame the Adriatic, with fabulous views from the restaurant, outdoor pool and hot tub. The 20 contemporary rooms are in four separate buildings, the most desirable featuring balconies with sea views. There's a gym, a library and a games room, and the zigzagging footpath to Mount Srd is only a few minutes' walk away.
Details B&B doubles from £335 (palacenatali.com). Fly to Dubrovnik



Palace Natali, Dubrovnik

The Byron Dubrovnik

This relatively new addition to Dubrovnik's boutique hotel scene is tucked away in a lane by the Old Town's cathedral. The Byron has only four rooms in this lovingly restored 17th-century townhouse (although three more are coming next year), each one a light and airy space with echoes of a French country cottage. The elegant communal room, with its old piano under beamed ceilings, sets the tone for the other rooms, three of which have handcrafted kitchenettes. The unfailingly helpful service sets the Byron apart — it's run by the same couple who ran the much-missed Fresh Sheets Kathedral B&B.
Details Room-only doubles from £234 (thebyron.com). Fly to Dubrovnik

Hotel Ambasador Split

The new incarnation of the original 1937 Hotel Ambasador is a sleek, classy affair with an enviable waterfront location in Split's port at the foot of Marjan Hill. Opened last September, this glossy white tower of a hotel offers beautiful city and sea views from 101 contemporary rooms on six floors. The pool and terrace bar — one of the dreamiest spots to watch life go by — is on the third floor, while the underground spa has saunas and fitness equipment, and the ground-floor restaurant serves refined Mediterranean cuisine next to trendy Bar Split.
Details B&B doubles from £218 (ambasadorsplit.com). Fly to Split

Costabella Beach Resort & Spa Rijeka

Hilton created its own world on this relatively quiet stretch of coastline between Rijeka and Opatija two years ago when it opened the enormous Hilton Rijeka Costabella Beach Resort & Spa. Six restaurants (including Michelin-starred Nebo), a massive spa with an indoor pool and health club, an infinity pool looking out over the sea and a pebbly 200m beach invite lazy days soaking up the Adriatic sunshine. Its 132 refined minimalist rooms and 62 villas and suites have either balconies or terraces.
Details B&B doubles from £230 (hilton.com). Fly to Rijeka

Armerun Heritage Hotel & Residence Sibenik

Underrated Sibenik got a new boutique hotel a couple of years ago when Armerun Heritage Hotel opened on the site of a former Dominican monastery on the city's attractive waterfront.

Behind a pleasing façade of creamy Dalmatian stone and green shutters, 21 modern rooms and apartments are warmed by exposed stone walls and views either of the Adriatic or Sibenik's old town, including its magnificent cathedral. Push the boat out by booking one of the spacious apartments and spoil yourself with a hot tub on the sea-facing terrace.
Details B&B doubles from £130 (armerun.com). Fly to Split

WHAT HAPPENS IN VEGAS?

Alongside the casinos and the wedding chapels is a world of renowned art, star chefs and top-tier sport. **Tristan Parker** learns of a surprising side to the city from three of its residents

There's no denying Las Vegas is a glitzy metropolis, but many people don't realise there's another side to it – one that defies its big-screen image and reveals a diverse cultural hub with plenty to say.

In this less familiar Vegas, you'll find cutting-edge art galleries and eye-opening museums, globally acclaimed sports events and access to some of America's finest natural parks, with jaw-dropping scenery.

Best of all, it's a cinch to uncover these aspects of the city, especially when you talk to the people who really know Las Vegas: the locals.

Three knowledgeable residents gave us their tips for experiencing a very different Las Vegas.

Add to that recommendations from another savvy team who know the city inside out – Virgin Atlantic staff – and you have everything needed to plan a memorable holiday.

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PLANE SAILING

The friendly faces at Virgin Atlantic share their top tips for places to visit while in Las Vegas – because who knows the Neon City better than the wonderful crew responsible for your seamless journey from London Heathrow?



"Lost Spirits Distillery, just off the Strip, is a brilliant evening out. It offers an experiential, interactive circus show – with rum!"
Tim, pricing manager

"The old neon sign graveyard – the Boneyard – at The Neon Museum is a unique place. Guided tours there tell you all about the history of Las Vegas."
Daniel, inflight services manager

"The Seven Magic Mountains art installation in the desert is amazing. It's a 30-minute drive from the Strip and beautiful at dusk and dawn. Secret Pizza at The Cosmopolitan of Las Vegas is good for a very late snack. It's open until 4am and the pizza is phenomenal."
Josie, aircraft efficiency officer

"Visit the quirky and charming town of Seligman, on the way to the Grand Canyon. It's like taking a step back in time."
Pierre, cabin crew

"Mount Charleston, just an hour's drive from the city, is a great place to hike."
Kevin, flight service manager

"Red Rock Canyon is ideal for going for a hike in the cooler months."
Carly, cabin crew

"The absolute best cocktail bar in Vegas is The Golden Tiki. It's ten minutes from the Strip and is where the locals go. For shopping, head to the Downtown Summerlin centre, which has more than a hundred stores. They have everything!"
Andrew, airport manager (Las Vegas)

Rogues and galleries

From a Mob museum to Hirst art and a monumental guitar – whatever you're into, Vegas has it covered, says Aaron Berger of The Neon Museum

Our mission at The Neon Museum is to celebrate the city as a whole and how we are different. The museum is two things, really. If you're looking for an iconic Vegas backdrop for your Instagram shot, this is the place to be, whether you want the 82ft-tall Hard Rock guitar or the Stardust casino sign, which has so much nostalgia tied to it.

But if you want to learn about black, women, indigenous or Latin artists and activists in Las Vegas, there are special exhibits and events at the museum that tell those stories too.

In terms of other museums and galleries that people should visit, the marquee names are the Mob Museum (officially named the National Museum of Organized Crime & Law Enforcement) and the Bellagio Gallery of Fine Art.

I saw my first Jeff Koons in Vegas. And Damien Hirst has sculptures at the Palms Casino Resort

Pop pick: the Hard Rock guitar – all 82 feet of it – at The Neon Museum

Whenever I travel, I like to find venues that are off the beaten track and focus on local artists. There are some great places to do that here, such as Nuwu Art Gallery + Community Center, which is dedicated to artists of colour in Las Vegas, with a strong emphasis on Indigenous art.

Really, though, you could say the whole city is a museum. I saw my first Jeff Koons work here – *Tulips* at the Wynn Las Vegas hotel – and Damien Hirst has sculptures at the Palms Casino Resort.

We have galleries in Las Vegas that rival any to be found in the country, but the experience of seeing our art is just a little different.


Ride high: from Valley of Fire and Red Rock Canyon to Death Valley – hit the road

Head for the hills and valleys

Jessica Juadines of Pink Adventure Tours on the joy of desert drives, curious critters and memorable movie sets



When it comes to experiencing nature and being outdoors, Las Vegas has so much to offer. For starters, we are located in the Mojave Desert. Then there are national parks, gorgeous conservation areas, amazing trees and greenery, and the Grand Canyon is right next door. When we take people out on a Jeep tour, they can't believe that all these places exist so close to the city.

One of the most popular places among both locals and tourists is Red Rock Canyon National Conservation Area – just a 30-minute drive from the Strip. You can see the mountain ranges there from various parts of the city. There's desert-like landscape, gorgeous red rocks, pine trees, waterfalls and snowmelt. It's very serene and peaceful, and it's one of those places that's completely silent, which is remarkable when you're there. We do an off-road tour to Red Rock in an open-air Jeep, which really gives people the feel of being out in the elements.

Valley of Fire is about an hour away from most of the Las Vegas resorts, and it's another place that's just mesmerising. The iron oxide in the sediment of the rocks makes them a vibrant red. Lots of movies have been filmed there to use them as a backdrop.

There are also the bucket list destinations you can visit from Las Vegas, like Death Valley, the Grand Canyon and the Hoover Dam. Another place I recommend is Eldorado Canyon, where you can see Techatticup Mine, one of Nevada's oldest gold mines. It's perfect if people want to feel like they're in the wild, wild West for a day.

You can also spot a lot of wildlife in these areas. The bighorn sheep in Valley of Fire are really impressive. They almost camouflage into the background, so you have to know what you're looking for, but once you see them, they're amazing. You might also see a desert tortoise burrowing down in some areas. Another thing that makes exploring the outdoors so appealing is the weather. The sun is pretty much always out here, so almost every day is beautiful. Even on the very few overcast or rainy days we have, scenery like Red Rock still looks fantastic.

The Grand Canyon is a lot closer to Las Vegas than most people think, depending on which part you're going to. The West Rim is only about two hours away, which is where you'll find the Skywalk: the U-shaped glass walkway that attracts a lot of people. But most of the Grand Canyon National Park is around the South Rim. The climate also varies a lot in different sections: the North Rim can be covered in snow while there's lots of sunshine at the South Rim.

Seeing all these areas is such a valuable thing to do, because it helps people understand why Las Vegas exists. All these places are part of the foundations for the city that we have, especially the Hoover Dam, which provides water to so many people.

My favourite place to go when I want to escape the city is Valley of Fire. The landscape changes so drastically on the way there, and it's one of those places that puts things into perspective and makes you realise just how small you are in this big world.

If you're searching for a stunning architectural building, The Smith Center for the Performing Arts is a great space. They also have a little cabaret and jazz venue called Myron's, which is a wonderful place to drop in if you want to grab a drink and listen to some live music.

If you want to go more avant-garde, I love the Majestic Repertory Theatre. It's a very small space where they do a lot of immersive productions that see the ticket-holders become part of the production.

When it comes to dining out, there are a million great places on the Strip, but personally I love to go to Main St Provisions in the Arts District or Letty's, which does Mexican street food. The best way to finish a night is at Freed's, a family-owned bakery with four locations in Las Vegas that's been around since 1959. You can't go wrong with anything you order there.

What I really love about the city is that Las Vegas is whatever you want it to be. If you want to eat at an amazing restaurant and then go clubbing at some of the best nightclubs in the world, go for it. But if you want to get up early and see a stunning mid-century modern church designed by one of the first black architects accepted into the American Institute of Architects, we got that too.



That church, by the way, is the Guardian Angel Cathedral, designed by Paul Revere Williams. It has stained-glass windows depicting the Strip and they even accept chips when they pass the communion plate.

There is no favourite activity in Las Vegas – it's all about "What are you in the mood for today?" Because whatever that is, it's here.



Championship shape

Brian Hurlburt of LasVegasGolfInsider.com on why Vegas is "The Greatest Arena on Earth"

I like to call Las Vegas the ultimate golf destination. No other golf destination in the world has our "19th hole" – the Las Vegas Strip. And then there's everything surrounding it: major league sporting events, dozens of star concert headliners, great restaurants – everything is here. So, you play on some very good golf courses during the day and then the night just comes alive.

There's incredible golf here, but the draw for many people is that you can combine world-class golf with world-class dining, shopping, entertainment and other sports. The Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority dubbed us "The Greatest Arena on Earth". What that means is we have pretty much everything in the city.

> No other golf destination has our "19th hole" – the Las Vegas Strip

We have Allegiant Stadium – home to the NFL's Las Vegas Raiders – the Thomas & Mack Center, the MGM Grand Garden Arena, the T-Mobile Arena… The list goes on and on. The city is filled with everything from hockey, football and boxing to Formula One, soccer and rugby.

There's a deep history of professional golf in Las Vegas that dates back to the LPGA Championship in 1961. That tournament was played at what's now called Las Vegas National Golf Club. Tiger Woods also won his first PGA Tour event in Las Vegas, in 1996, and the National was one of the three courses used. Shadow Creek Golf Course is probably our most famous course.

If people are visiting the city for the first time and want to golf, I'd recommend the three courses at Las Vegas Paiute Golf Resort designed by Pete Dye: Snow Mountain, Sun Mountain and The Wolf. They're always in great condition. Then there's Reflection Bay Golf Club at Lake Las Vegas, a spectacular Nicklaus Design course.

Aside from golf, we now have the National Hockey League, and our team is the Vegas Golden Knights. That's a big deal for us, and the city always gets behind them when they take to the ice. Then there's the Las Vegas Raiders in the NFL. We've also got a Minor League Baseball team, the Las Vegas Aviators, and college teams for various sports.

But what's special about Las Vegas is that there are always so many big-time championships happening.

The Super Bowl is coming next year, F1 racing is coming in November with the Las Vegas Grand Prix, we have two annual NASCAR races at the Las Vegas Motor Speedway, there's the Rock'n'Roll Las Vegas marathon where people run right down the Strip, there are huge bowling tournaments… whatever your favourite sport is, we probably have a championship for it.

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Houses with history — inside

The region's Renaissance palaces are a must-see, now with fun extras for visitors and B&Bs nearby. By Anthony Peregrine

The Loire Valley, along the river in central France, is home to the greatest Renaissance châteaux anywhere. But of course, not everyone who visits is bewitched. There are those who show up because duty demands it, then slope round as fast as possible before shearing off in search of *un verre de vin*.

I sympathise. But perhaps it helps to understand that these monumental piles weren't built simply to pretty up the landscape and create a cultural obstacle course for future fun-seekers. They were at the heart of the region's history for 400 years, hosting a heavyweight cast who lived in and visited them while ruling France, plotting to rule France, partying, hunting, stabbing and sleeping with anything that moved.

The surrounding landscape — soft-lit, fertile, defined by France's greatest river — is seductive, but what keeps you going is discovering the area's history.

The Loire is a beautiful region to explore, and the châteaux even more appealing to visit now that they have, at last, learnt to play to the public. Now they offer horse shows, son-et-lumière events, escape games, falconry displays, extraordinary gardens, good cafés, temporary exhibitions and a sense that the Renaissance châteaux have finally caught up with the 21st century. Plus there's always somewhere wonderful to stay nearby — choose one as a base and head out to other château towns each day, or hop between them on a tour.

One word of warning: don't try to see more than two in a day, and six in a trip, or château fatigue will strike. For a first visit, choose just a few, and factor in plenty of time for wine tasting and relaxing too.

Château de Chaumont

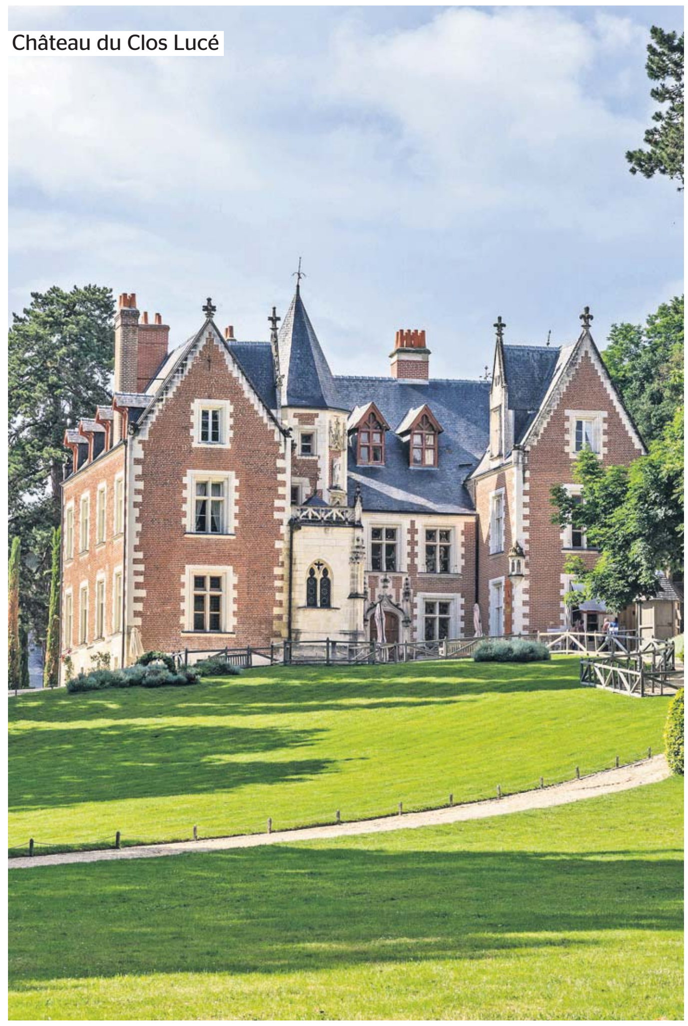
Loire-side Chaumont, a white, turreted confection, is best known for its annual, long-running garden festival. It is on now until November 5, showing 40 different gardens on a theme of resilience to climate change.

Historically, though, the château has been defined by interesting women. Diane de Poitiers, royal mistress and bather in asses' milk, ended up here when kicked out of Chenonceau by the royal widow Catherine de' Medici.

Some 300 years later, in 1875, the place was bought by 17-year-old Marie Say, heiress to a sugar fortune who was orphaned at 14 and married Prince Amédée de Broglie. You'll learn about her as you tour the leafy grounds, stables and apartments full of 15th to 19th-century tapestries and paintings: she rose daily at 2pm and entertained A-listers including George V, Sarah Bernhardt and various Indian maharajahs, one of whom showed up with an elephant as a gift.

Chaumont now has a hotel, Le Bois des Chambres, with rooms in calming pale green, mauve and grey that open onto the gardens, and some in their own garden huts. There's also a top-end restaurant for dinner, the Grand Chaume, where the menu includes white asparagus with grapefruit and meadowsweet (three courses £48).

Details Entry £18 (domaine-chaumont.fr). Room-only doubles from £126 (leboisdeschambres.fr)


Château du Clos Lucé


The Relais de Chambord hotel

Château d'Amboise

Dominating the attractive town of Amboise and the Loire River from 130ft up, the rambling Château Royal d'Amboise gives anyone — kings, visitors, families from Huddersfield — aspirations of sovereignty.

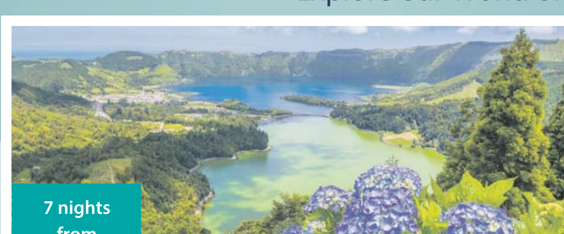
Key points: it has a spiral entry, like a multistorey car park, to swing horses and carriages up top, and is home to what is believed to be Leonardo da Vinci's tomb. Plus it was an important site from the time Charles VIII embarked on Italian campaigns and brought the Renaissance back with him. Tragically, Renaissance architectural amendments didn't include raising the height of doors; Charles died after smacking his head on a lintel.

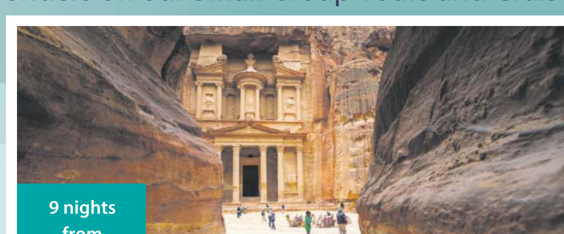
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the châteaux of the Loire

ANNE EMMANUELLE THION; ALAMY





Château de Chenonceau



An interior at Valençay

from evening picnics to costumed characters tracing the castle's history on Wednesday and Saturday evenings (July 12-August 30).

Nearby Château du Clos Lucé, a few hundred yards from the king's own château, is where François I set Leonardo up to live when he bade him travel to Amboise to give his reign intellectual clout. A tunnel linked the two, easing meetings and conversation.

The manor house and gardens are lively with models and evocations of inventions Leonardo came up with centuries before anyone else — tanks, machineguns, flying machines, parachutes and the car jack, among many others. A new, immersive light-show gallery highlights his 17 masterpieces plus his talent for architecture, with a separate exhibition on his mastery of anatomy (June 9-September 17). The visit will leave you breathless with admiration for his work (entry £16, vinci-closluce.com).

Elsewhere in the town, wander the narrow alleyways and grab a good bottle of wine (vouvray is the local white) from the Caves Ambacia, which has cellar tours and a riverside bistro (tours £16, caves-ambacia.fr). Stay at the Clos de l'Hermitage hotel, built into rock, with caves containing traditionally styled bedrooms and even a swimming pool.

Details Entry £13 (chateau-amboise.com). B&B doubles from £86 (leclosdelhermitage.fr).

Château de Chambord

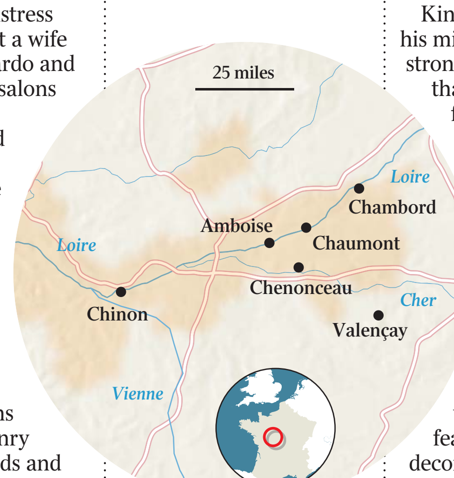
In 1519 King François I conceived this, the most overwhelming of Loire châteaux (426 rooms, 83 staircases), to sock it to foreign dignitaries — a symbol of absolute power. He wanted to impress upon them that the French monarch was second only to God, and a close second at that. The regal scale, encapsulates the grandeur of France's self-image. Also, though, edging mildly towards bonkers. The 282 chimneys look like the upturned hairbrush that ate Paris.

The same impression continues inside. The double helix staircase (a mistress going down stairs wouldn't meet a wife coming up) is inspired by Leonardo and is grandiose, as are numberless salons and chambers. Back rooms and hidden staircases seem designed for skulduggery and skulking. Though his queen, Claude, bore him seven children, François' eye wandered and he was occasionally even rebuffed, leading him to scratch on a château window: "Women are often fickle. A fool is he who trusts them." Absolutism had its fissures.

Chambord now has attractions of fitting status: horse and falconry shows (until October 1), vineyards and stables, an enclosed, game-filled park, a new children's space and an exhibition covering the château's wartime role as a hiding place for works of art from the Louvre.

Nearby, the four-star Relais de Chambord hotel has elegant rooms — some looking straight at the château, one suite on a floating riverboat — plus a great restaurant.

Details Entry £14 (chambord.org). Doubles from £128 (relaisdechambord.com)



Château de Chenonceau

With its gallery stretching over the Cher river, Chenonceau is but a few unicorns short of the full fairytale. Contemplate the white turreted façade, the gardens, the vast floral bouquets enhancing the salons, and harmony seems assured. But this is France. Intrigue, friskiness, grief and revenge lurk just out of sight.

King Henry II gave Chenonceau to his mistress Diane de Poitiers, a strong-headed woman 20 years older than him who had slept with his father. She created fine gardens. On Henry's death his widow, Catherine de' Medici, kicked Diane out, moved in, built her own gardens and hosted riotous parties.

The château interior bears well-polished witness to the women, and to Louise de Lorraine, the widow of Catherine's son, Henry III, who spent 11 years in mourning in what is the most fascinating feature: a black bedchamber decorated with motifs of tears, bones and shovels.

In the 18th century, the chatelaine Louise Dupin established Chenonceau as an early outpost of feminism, hosting literary salons with Jean-Jacques Rousseau as secretary and writing a 2,000-page treatise on the rights of women. There's also wine tasting at the Cave des Dômes.

Stay a five-minute walk away at the vine-clad Auberge du Bon Laboureur, once the old post house, which has an outdoor pool and a smart restaurant (three courses £54); breakfast is just as indulgent, featuring smoked salmon and crème caramel.

Details Entry £13 (book ahead; chenonceau.com). B&B doubles from £124 (bonlaboureur.com)

Château de Chinon

It was here, in 1429 (mid-Hundred Years' War) that Joan of Arc told Charles VII to stop being such a drip (I paraphrase) and to give her an army so she could boot the English out of France. Unusually — it wasn't customary to hand military command to 17-year-old girls — he agreed. Joan subsequently cleared the rosbifs from Orléans.

So the vast, ridge-topping Chinon regained the prominence it had had 250 years earlier, as a stronghold of the Plantagenet empire running from the Cheviots to the Pyrenees. Our Henry II died there in 1189. It's said that his servants immediately ransacked his chamber, leaving only his breeches and his shirt.

There's not an awful lot left of the multi-towered castle at the top of the town either — Henry's palace is under what's now the ticket office — but what there is is grandiose. And then there's the 80ft latrine drop down which courtly ladies would bung accidental babies. An escape game based on tales of the Knights Templar is new this year (£18), along with an interactive Plantagenet exhibition and wine tasting on Thursdays in July and August (£9). The pretty town of narrow streets overlooks the River Vienne, a few miles from where it joins the Loire — there's the Carroi art museum to visit (£3.50, ecomusee-veron.fr) and charming B&Bs such as Destinées, in a tall townhouse with five elegant, antique-filled rooms.

Details Entry £9 (forteressechinon.fr). B&B doubles from £77 (les-destinees.com)

Château de Valençay

Though a majestic Renaissance pile, Valençay's greatest days came later, when Napoleon gave it to his minister Talleyrand as a reward and so that he might invite foreign dignitaries there to subvert them. Talleyrand had the necessary skill set. Having impregnated his niece when bishop of Autun, he was sufficiently shifty to maintain prominence through the revolution and Napoleonic Empire to the restoration and into the 1830s, when he was ambassador in London.

Among his tools at Valençay was the seductive cuisine of Antonin Carême, inventor of the vol-au-vent, the first cook to be considered a "celebrity chef" and to wear a big white hat. Fittingly, the Valençay kitchens are terrific. The fully furnished salons recall the 18th and 19th centuries. Picnic in the great deer park, and look out for the Festival of Culinary Photography exhibition, *The Taste of Milk*, which runs until November 12. The village doesn't have a great choice of accommodation, so stay outside. Le Clos des Roses, six miles away, has country-chic rooms with rose-pattern bedspreads.

Details Entry £13 (chateau-valencay.fr). Le Clos des Roses B&B doubles from £105 (booking.com)

To get to the Loire Valley, take the ferry and drive, or take the train to Blois, Amboise or Tours via Paris

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IATA

Our romantic tour of Tuscany

ALAMY


Val d'Orcia, Tuscany

Twelve years on, Alice-Azania Jarvis and her husband relive their first big adventure together

High in the Tuscan hills, on the balmy terrace of Da Delfina, a drama is unfolding. It's Sunday lunchtime at this decades-old restaurant and, all around me, families in weekend best — head-to-toe black with slashes of red lipstick for the women; pressed shirts and chinos for the men — are gathering for the weekly, multi-generational get-together.

Only, there is a problem. A particularly large, particularly gregarious group of twentysomethings has arrived, seemingly without a booking. The waiter looks alarmed. Where to put them? It appears to be someone's birthday and the party's number continues to swell precariously, approaching two dozen. After 15 or so minutes of anxious back and forth, a solution is finally found. They are seated indoors, just out of sight. Everyone breathes a sigh of relief. And then our food is served (mains from £14; dadelfina.it).

My husband and I smile at each other; it feels like a miracle that we are here. Not just because, like those twentysomethings, we arrived without a booking, having tried and failed to make one in faltering Italian over the phone. And not just because of the exceptional food either: tagliolini with local asparagus for me, spaghetti with wild garlic pesto for him. No, what makes this moment all the more remarkable is that this is the third holiday John and I have attempted in nine months, but the first we've succeeded in taking together.

In September I booked a romantic week in Marrakesh for our first wedding anniversary, picturing candlelit riad dinners and afternoons mooching around souks — until John was offered a new job, beginning four days before we were due to fly. I took my father instead. Then in January, I had to pull out of a trip to South Africa for medical reasons, so John wound up on safari with his in-laws but not his wife.

Italy, therefore, was planned more in hope than expectation. It was not until our flight roared out of Gatwick that I believed it was going to happen.

The idea was simple: to recreate our first big adventure together, a magical driving holiday in Tuscany 12 years ago. Framed photos from that time still decorate bookshelves at home, and after our year of travel fails, I find myself feeling nostalgic. Wouldn't it be nice, I suggest one evening, to relive the romance of 2011? Also: gelato. John didn't take much convincing.

The plan was to do a circular road trip, beginning with a restful couple of days in the Val d'Orcia, then ramping up with a journey north to the historic hamlet of Artimino, outside Florence, then south again to the area around Montepulciano.

Our first stop is Locanda in Tuscany, a stunningly pretty former farmhouse surrounded by operatic landscapes near Montalcino. Consisting of nine rooms (all exposed walls, wooden beams and stone floors), a restaurant and a large swimming pool, the hotel, run by Luca and Claudia Bernetti, is a new addition to the Casas Latinas collection of estates, and can also be hired exclusively for large groups or events. "Perhaps one for our tenth wedding anniversary," remarks my husband, wryly. One can dream.

As it is, travelling outside the school holidays, it feels a little like we have it to ourselves such is the attentiveness of Francesco, who oversees Locanda's restaurant, Taverna di Mozart (mains from £17; locandaintuscany.it). The meal is one of my favourites of the trip: fat ricotta gnudi with sage butter and salty polpette di cavolo nero. Breakfasts are similarly sumptuous, and I take childlike delight in using the juicer to squish grapefruits into my glass each morning. Daytimes are spent reading or visiting Montalcino (pretty but sleepy) and the quirky town of Bagno Vignoni, which features a large pool of thermal water — the baths of St Catherine — in the middle of its central square.



Batteries suitably recharged, we step up our activity level for the next phase of the trip with an 85-mile drive north to Artimino. En route, we stop for a quick whizz around Siena, and lunch at Antica Trattoria Papei (mains from £9; anticatrattoriapapei.com). This cheerful pasta spot was one of our favourites in 2011, and I'm delighted to find it unchanged, tables bustling with families celebrating what appears to be university graduation day. True, the photo my husband snaps of me tucking into my pici all'aglione (a simple pasta in tomato and garlic sauce) doesn't compare too favourably to the last one he took of me here, in an almost nonexistent sundress at 26, but, lolling in the central Piazza del Campo eating coconut gelato afterwards, we are still on cloud nine.

Back on the road to Artimino, I feel my excitement mount. The pristine hilltop village is overlooked by the sprawling Medici villa La Ferdinanda, built as a hunting lodge for Grand Duke Ferdinando I at the end of the 16th century. Last year, the 1,800-acre estate became part of the Melia collection of hotels as Tenuta di Artimino. Now it's possible to sleep, if not in a duke's bedroom, then a stone's throw away in the former stable and servants' quarters. Rooms feature beautifully patterned, jewel-coloured furnishings and there are enormous chimneys, thanks to the comprehensive heating system commissioned by Ferdinand, whose gout left him averse to cold winters.

It is Luca Catarinicchia, Tenuta di Artimino's charming guest experience manager, who tips us off about Da Delfina and books us a table for our first night in Artimino. Opened in the 1950s by Delfina Cioni, the wife of a local gamekeeper, it is now run by her son, Carlo. The menu is impossible to navigate without a grasp of Italian (or, in our case, Google Translate); these are not your standard trattoria classics but more unique creations drawing on local herbs and ingredients (acorn flour tagliatelle with pecorino was a highlight). I curse myself for ordering just one course; the next morning, we resolve to return for Sunday lunch.


Alice-Azania Jarvis and her husband John

While in the area, we can't resist a quick jaunt into Florence, just 12 miles away, and a pistachio and hazelnut gelato at Vivoli, Florence's 94-year-old gelateria (£3.50 for a medium; vivoli.it). Closer to home, we visit the small but impressive Archaeological Museum of Artimino (£3.60; parcoarcheologicocarmignano.it). While the Medicis' legacy may dominate the landscape today, the area is a rich source of Etruscan artefacts, including vases and weapons from nearby tombs.

Historical and gastronomical appetites suitably sated, it's on to our final leg of the trip: back down south to take in the winelands of Montepulciano.

It's here that we discover Boscarelli, a three-generations old family winery. Driving past on our first morning in the area, I pop in to ask if they do tours and book one on the spot (£18; poderiboscarelli.com). It is pleasingly intimate — just four guests in all — and our guide, Alberto, is simply fabulous: charismatic, funny and with word-perfect English. After a walk around the vineyards and cellars, we sit down for a tasting, building up from a young Prugnolo rosso to a reserve Vino Nobile, the local speciality. We leave thrilled with our serendipitous outing.

Of course there is more to do here than drink; we also love our visits to the towns of Pienza and Montepulciano. The former is known for its immaculate Renaissance architecture, the legacy of Pope Pius II, ▶


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▶ who was born there and had it entirely rebuilt on becoming pope in 1458. Even its name was decreed by him — literally "city of Pius". Dipping in and out of gift shops selling local lavender is a blissful way to pass a morning, and the stunningly preserved Palazzo Piccolomini, complete with hanging gardens, is worth a visit too, even if the only way to do this is by joining a frustratingly crowded, audio guided tour (£6.20).

By the time we're due to fly home we've had enough food, wine and sun to power us through the remainder of the UK's anaemic spring. I'd feared that returning somewhere that held such special memories could backfire. Did we bicker more than in the first flush of love? Naturally. Will we be paying a higher price for all that gelato now our metabolisms are approaching middle age? Of course. Was it worth it? Absolutely. You know what they say: third time lucky.

Need to know

Alice-Azania Jarvis was a guest of Locanda in Tuscany, which has B&B doubles from £266; exclusive use from £11,500 per week (casas-latinas.com), Tenuta di Artimino, which has B&B doubles from £250 (artimino.com), and Borgo San Vincenzo (see panel). Fly to Pisa

Three more romantic hotels in Tuscany

Borgo San Vincenzo, Montepulciano
This dreamy oasis a short drive from Montepulciano was recently named one of the world's best new hotels by Travel+Leisure magazine, and with good reason. Surrounded by Unesco-protected vistas, the 18th-century property is set among vineyards, and has been beautifully restored by its American owners, Shannon and Scott Kircher. Everything here has been designed with the utmost thoughtfulness, from the luxuriously equipped rooms (there are 21 studios and suites in all) to the sun-drenched conservatory, or "winter garden", with its ready supply of coffee and crostata, and the monthly winemaker dinners, which include presentations and tastings from local wineries. It's also perfectly poised for a vineyard tour (electric bikes are available, and the hotel can organise cookery classes and cheese and olive oil sampling). The Flying Monk cocktail bar is excellent and has a fun list of drinks, from fresh and fruity to complex infusions, spirits and grappa. Truly, a slice of heaven.
Details B&B doubles from £266; minimum two-night stay (borgosanvincenzo.com). Fly to Perugia


Borgo San Vincenzo

Bagni di Pisa Palace and Thermal Spa, San Giuliano Terme
The thermal waters around Tuscany are very beautifully channelled into a hotel in the small town of San Giuliano Terme. When this cream and white building was the summer home of the Duke of Lorraine, Mary Shelley and George IV stayed. Now there are 61 gently classical bedrooms, while downstairs are frescoes and swimming pools (two indoor ones with hydromassage treatments in a natural cave, and an outdoor pool, all heated from thermal water). Pisa, which has an airport, is four miles away, there are grounds to explore, and the restaurant extends into a shady garden with olive trees.
Details Four nights' B&B from £905pp (citalia.com). Fly to Pisa

La Luna di Quarazzanna, Massa-Carrera
This small B&B, which overlooks the Apuan Alps, is tucked away in the rural part of Tuscany. The collection of three farmhouses with a central courtyard has five rooms, all of them charming and quiet. Breakfasts feature fruit from the garden and homemade jams. There's a small restaurant too, where the owner, Ilaria, cooks her grandmother's recipes in an open kitchen. Outside, there's a small swimming pool and large chestnut forests to investigate.
Details B&B doubles from £95 (sawdays.co.uk). Fly to Pisa

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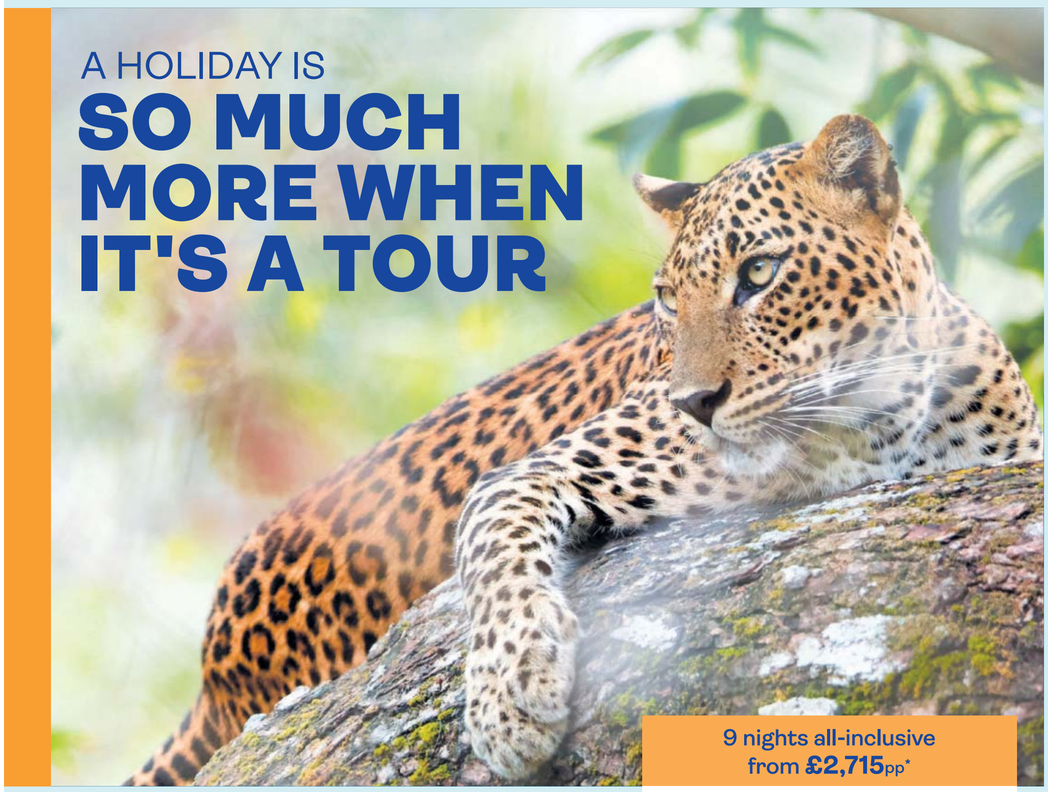
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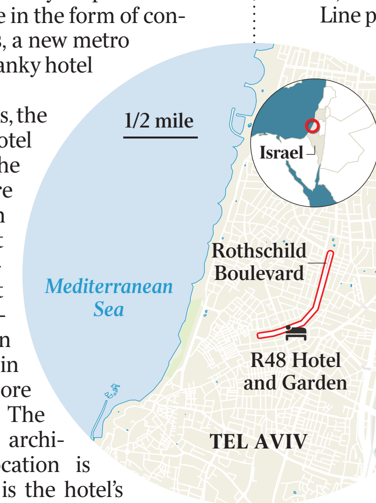
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Saga is for people over 50. *Price is per person based two people sharing on 5 December departure. Other departures available June 2023 - November 2024. Prices subject to availability and correct at time of going to print. §Includes travel insurance underwritten by Astrenska Insurance Limited or a price reduction of £120 if not required. Cover is subject to medical screening. For more information about financial protection and the ATOL Certificate visit www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate. 014339

If I want to know what's great about a city, I ask a repeat visitor. Locals are too immersed in the detail to see the big picture; first-time holidaymakers lack experience and context. But people who visit a place again and again occupy the sweet spot where they are schooled in the highlights. They've witnessed how a city has evolved and can sum up its trajectory in clear bullet points.

When I first visited Tel Aviv in 2018, Rothschild Boulevard, the tree-lined central artery that's the Middle Eastern city's answer to Park Lane, was an enchanting parade of low-rise buildings and café-bars strewn with fairy lights, dominated by leafy trees under which families strolled on a Saturday afternoon. But five years and two more visits later, I see the mood shifting. Shiny new skyscrapers glint a 15-minute walk away from the golden beach. A new Six Senses tower hotel is being erected and designer shops spill westwards towards the chic Neve Tzedek district. Marks of growth — Israel's economy expanded by 6.3 per cent in 2022 — echo citywide in the form of construction cranes, a new metro network and swanky hotel launches.

Of these hotels, the 11-room R48 Hotel and Garden is the very latest. More than a decade in the making, it occupies a previously vacant 1933-built Bauhaus building, on a prime plot in the central core of Rothschild. The combination of architecture and location is notable, but so is the hotel's ambition: to provide a level of exclusivity that this city has not seen before.



Even as I arrive in darkness, just after 5am following my overnight flight, I can see they've at least nailed the design bit. Rapid growth in the 1930s made Tel Aviv the world capital of Bauhaus architecture, with 4,000 of these boxy, stark buildings in its compact centre. But thanks to deep pockets (R48 is funded by a Canadian billionaire couple, Heather Reisman and Gerry Schwartz) and judicious vision from local AN+ Architects, R48 is much more than


A garden studio suite

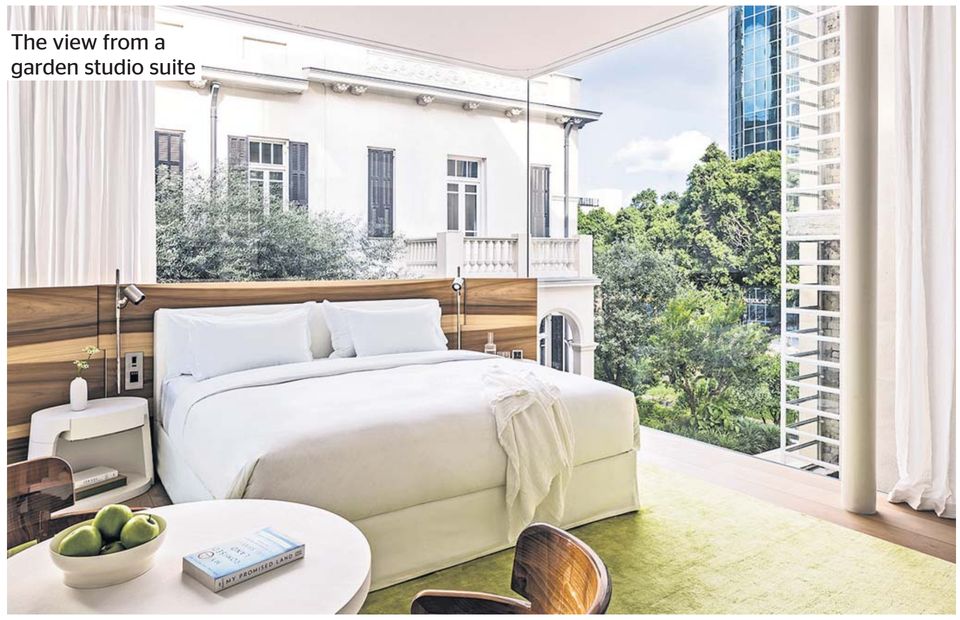
just a restored 1930s building. The minimalist white structure, ribboned in balconies, has been raised several metres by stilts so it appears to levitate above the street. Around the corner from the restored frontage, a towering glass extension reaches from ground to roof, letting a warm glow from the lobby bar and the intimate restaurant mingle with courtyard gardens by Piet Oudolf, the designer of New York's High Line park. The pièce de résistance? A bit of Willy Wonka-goes-glam: a 360-degree glass lift to transport guests to rooms and a rooftop pool.

I'm not one for maths — especially at 5am — but as I'm whisked directly to my suite (there's nothing so common as a check-in process here), I can easily calculate that R48 hasn't been designed as a cash cow. With so few rooms, a high staff-to-guest ratio and immaculate interiors by the plush French brand Studio Liaigre, even with a starting rate of £755 a night there can't be a great return on investment. The financial outlay of creating this place was clearly stratospheric.

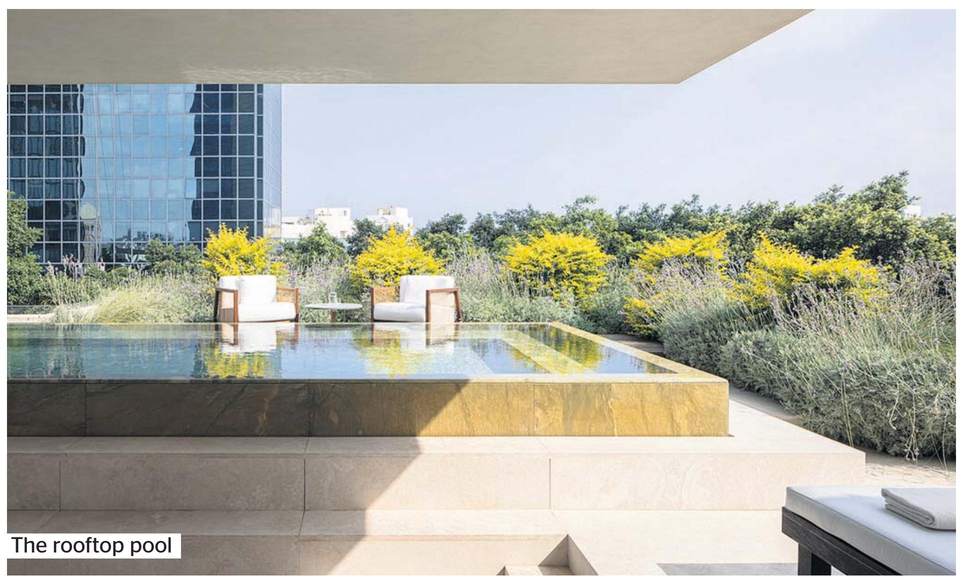
"Heather and Gerry see this as their gift to Tel Aviv," Oren Schnabel, the COO of R48, tells me later that day over an icy martini by the bar. Schnabel is from the hospitality group R2M, the co-owner and company tasked with managing the hotel. Founded by the Israeli *MasterChef* judge



AMIT GERON



The view from a garden studio suite



The rooftop pool

Ruti Broudo, R2M started with the opening of a single café, Coffee Bar, in 1994 and has grown to include the New York-cool Hotel Montefiore around the corner and the hip café-bar Herzl 16. In Tel Aviv, R2M is a byword for cool, atmospheric dining spaces. So when Reisman and Schwartz were looking for fabulous food and service to match AN+'s design, Liaigre's interiors and Oudolf's gardens, R2M was the natural pick.

As I watch parades of locals file in to dine that night (the tasting-menu restaurant has a two-month waiting list already) Schnabel explains that Reisman and Schwartz already owned the regal eclectic-style building next door — home to a philanthropic foundation — so R48 was a clear follow-on project. Studio Liaigre was chosen because it's apparently a favourite of Reisman's, while art pieces from Reisman and Schwartz's personal collection adorn walls alongside a roll call of contemporary Israeli painters.

It all sounds very billionaire pet project, but R2M brings good local grounding to the mix. Schnabel himself began as a waiter in Coffee Bar decades ago and moved up through the company from there, and obviously still puts in the hours. Throughout my three-day stay I see him constantly.

Someone else I see a lot of is Arielle, the effervescent American in-house guest-care manager who's there to tailor-make every stay, an enhanced level of service she describes as "something that doesn't exist yet in Tel Aviv". That means doing homework on guests before they arrive; co-ordinating turn-down service so it's done when you're out; noting how you take your coffee and bringing it before you have to ask. Each time I pop out of my suite to explore the city, I return to pin-straight linens, perfectly folded towels, a fresh new treat on my dining table — a bowl of perfect strawberries or swirly mini meringues. Arriving back from dinner, I'm greeted by a generous complimentary nightcap, a pour of Chivas Regal 18 Year Old. If nothing else, Arielle has correctly deduced my penchant for expensive hard alcohol.

I'm R48's very first proper guest so I get a prime suite: spacious No 22, with sliding teak screen dividers separating the bedroom from the large lounge, two bathrooms with granite sinks, and a duo of balconies. The balconies face majestically out to Rothschild Boulevard and the aspect means that among my other in-room goodies I'm also given a pair of bedside earplugs, which I gratefully employ at 3am on Friday night as some rowdy weekend revellers wander down the thoroughfare. Many other smaller hotel rooms face out towards the Piet Oudolf garden, including a clutch ringed in floor-to-ceiling windows — perfect for exhibitionists (or perhaps, influencers).

I've learnt over my three visits to brunch-obsessed Tel Aviv that the ultimate test of a good hotel restaurant is not its dinner but its weekend breakfasts. And while my evening tasting menu in the restaurant — a globe-trotting array, from mackerel sashimi with citrus-ginger sauce to gnudi with clams and basil — is good, Saturday morning's spread is exceptional. Sun floods into the glassy dining space, bathing wooden tables. A light breeze wafts in from the terrace, mingling with the music and chatter, and stirring the aroma of coffee. Out from the open kitchen comes a tower of perfect sugar-dusted pastries, slivers of nutty cheese, eggs simmered in matbucha — a tomatoey, red pepper sauce — with aubergine, and smoked mackerel with lentil flatbread and a mound of fresh herbs. Perfectly foamed lattes too (they didn't need to ask how I take my coffee more than once, of course). Then, even though it's only 9.30am, a cinnamon, pecan and oatmeal-infused breakfast cocktail made with white wine appears. Darn, do they know me.

Best of all, brunch proceedings are underlined with a sense of joy and personality from the staff, rather than the dull reverential service found at many high-end hotels. I've always found Tel Aviv to be a vibrant, liberal, welcome-you-with-open-arms city and while there's plenty of the "European-style polish" that Arielle spoke about wanting to achieve, the city's signature gregarious warmth is there in the DNA too.

That, to me, is what seals the deal. Because glossy new towers, designer shops, flash restaurants, golden beaches, new hotels — they're all well and good. But the reason *this* repeat visitor comes back to Tel Aviv is simple: the people.

Need to know

Alicia Miller was a guest of R48, which has B&B doubles from £755 (r48.co.il). Fly to Tel Aviv. For the latest Foreign Office advice on travel to Israel, see gov.uk



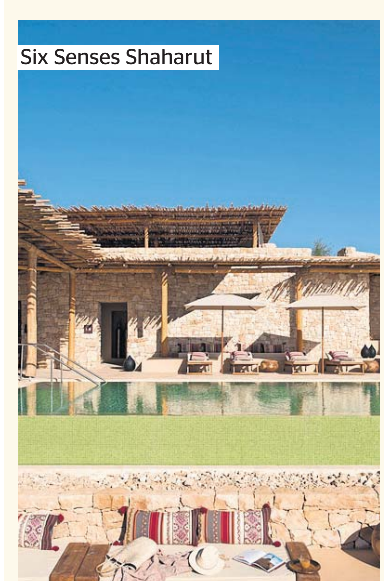
The R48 Hotel and Garden

3 more luxury stays in Israel

The Jaffa, Tel Aviv
Tel Aviv was only founded in 1909, but directly to the south — and now, a de facto district of the city — Jaffa is biblically old. In a converted 19th-century French hospital, urban resort the Jaffa, a Luxury Collection Hotel, pairs soaring ceilings and arched corridors with sleek interiors from the minimalist British architect and designer John Pawson. Even if you don't stay the night, poke your head into the event space, set spectacularly in an opulent, deconsecrated chapel.
Details Room-only doubles from £532 (marriott.co.uk)

The Norman, Tel Aviv
Just off the landmark Rothschild Boulevard and in an art deco building, the Norman raised the bar for the city's boutique hotel scene when it opened in 2014. Now with 50 rooms spread across two buildings, it's larger in scale than the nearby R48 but draws a stylish set with its rooftop pool and elegant see-and-be-seen brunches. There's an outpost of London's Dinings Japanese restaurant on the roof too, so you can nibble Marylebone-style sushi in Tel Aviv's near-guaranteed warmth.
Details B&B doubles from £740 (thenorman.com)

Six Senses Shaharut, Negev Desert
Opened in 2021, Israel's game-changing remote resort is worth the three-and-a-half-hour journey from Tel Aviv into the sun-baked Negev Desert. Ten years of eco-sensitive construction on a hilltop has resulted in an intimate hotel that blends into the stark desert landscape. Most rooms have broad views over rocky landscapes and some come with private plunge pools. Being a Six Senses, the spa is a draw — the singing bowl experience is sublime, if that's your thing — but it's the morning walking excursions that really bring the location to life. Breakfasts are fabulous too — a riot of labneh and roasted veg, Jerusalem bagels and shakshuka.
Details B&B doubles from £746 (sixsenses.com)



Six Senses Shaharut

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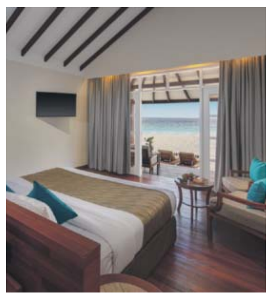
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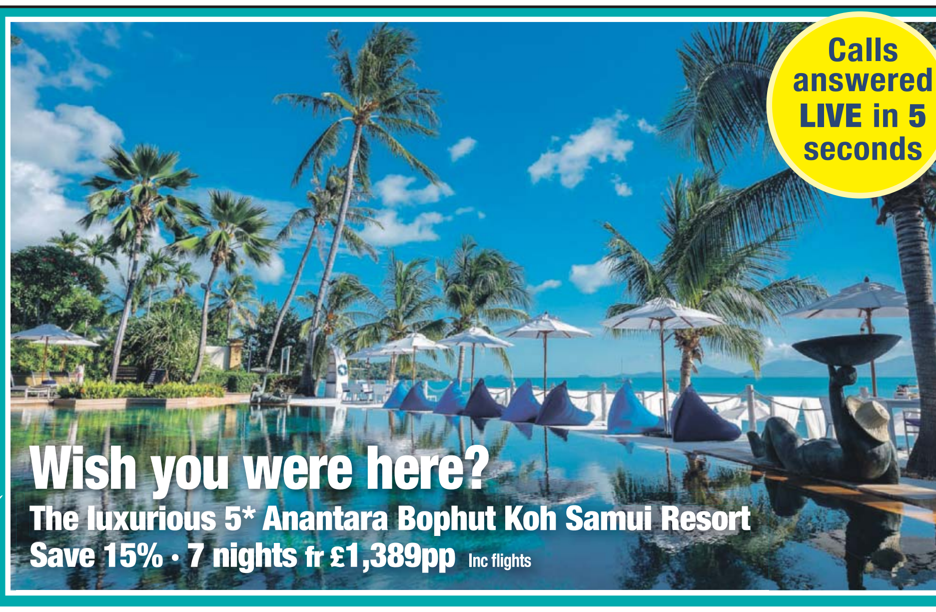
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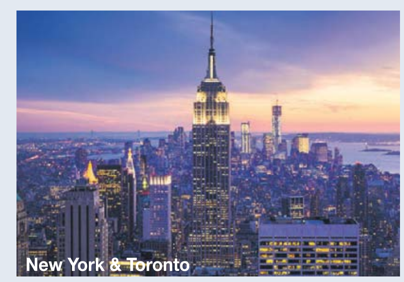
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UK AND EUROPE

Boutique hotel in Shakespeare country

Poke around the Warwickshire village of Shottery and you'll find quaint cottages, the childhood home of Anne Hathaway — Shakespeare's wife, not the actress — and the Burnside Hotel, a restored 19th-century manor house. You'll be just five minutes' drive from the centre of Stratford-upon-Avon, and close to the Royal Shakespeare Theatre and the Cotswolds. Until September 30, numerous Sunday-Thursday dates offer savings of 46 per cent, which means that two nights' B&B costs from £189pp, including a bottle of wine (travelzoo.com).

Roam the Pelion in Greece

Pelion is an underappreciated, enchanting, hook-shaped peninsula on the east coast of mainland Greece that combines olive groves with splendid white hill towns, forested mountains and filming locations from the original *Mamma Mia!* film. On its western coastline, you'll also find the chic Spalathra Suites: well-kitted-out studios with a shared pool and their own sea-facing balconies or terraces. If you can leave this coming Friday, you'll save 40 per cent — with seven nights' self-catering for two now costing £1,734, including flights, airport transfers and the hire of a car to allow you to explore (ionianislandholidays.com).

Rhine and Moselle river cruise

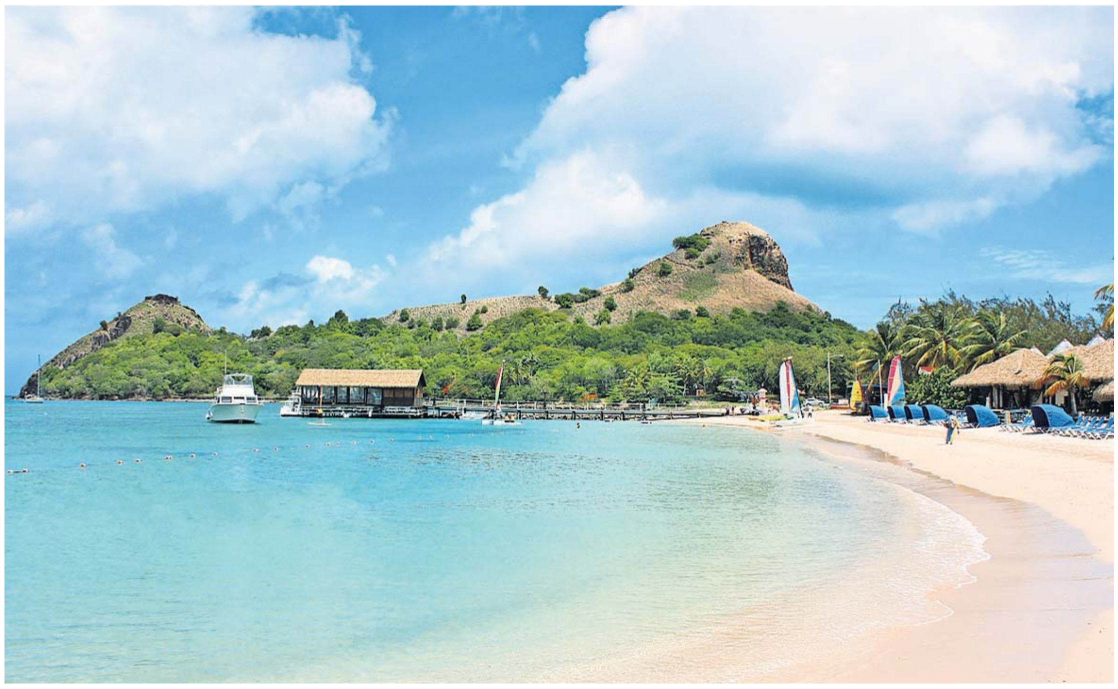
With vineyard-speckled slopes below Disney-style castles, there's nowhere quite like the Rhine Gorge. This round trip in Germany on the high-end, 167-passenger MS Oscar Wilde follows its course from ancient Cologne, stopping for additional tours of flowery Koblenz, Bernkastel-Kues and the Roman ruins of Trier. Departing on July 31, seven nights' full-board has been discounted by £300pp to £1,749pp. That includes return flights or trains, transfers, excursions, wi-fi and a drinks package worth £250 (rivieratravel.co.uk).

MID AND LONG-HAUL

Beach weather in the Gulf

The low-key emirate of Ras Al Khaimah has been reliably scorching so far in May, and the high temperatures coincide with plunging prices at the Cove Rotana. Spread out along a private, immaculate beachfront outside the city centre, this large five-star resort contains an adults-only pool, five bars and six restaurants serving global fare. Book by May 22 and five nights' all-inclusive, departing this month, will cost from £918pp, including flights, transfers, an upgrade and 20 per cent discounts on spa treatments and watersports (bluebaytravel.co.uk).

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Pigeon Island, St Lucia

St Lucia for less

Move quickly, and couples will be able to enjoy a luxurious week in the Caribbean for less than a grand each. In Rodney Bay, on St Lucia's north coast, the waterside Harbor Club, part of the Hilton's Curio Collection, has five dining outlets and four cascading swimming pools. There's no beach, but a complimentary water ferry whisks guests off to the golden shores of Pigeon Island. Expect a laid-back atmosphere and sleek, air-conditioned rooms. Departing on May 23, when 30C temperatures are likely, seven nights' B&B costs £923pp — reduced by 43 per cent — including flights and transfers (tui.co.uk).

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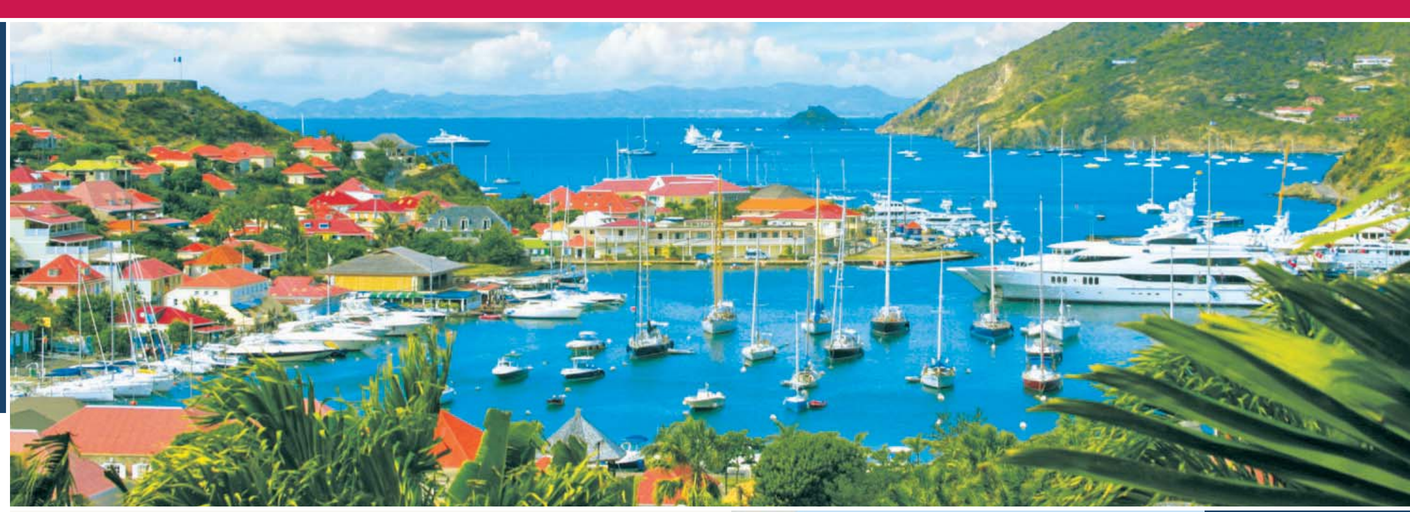
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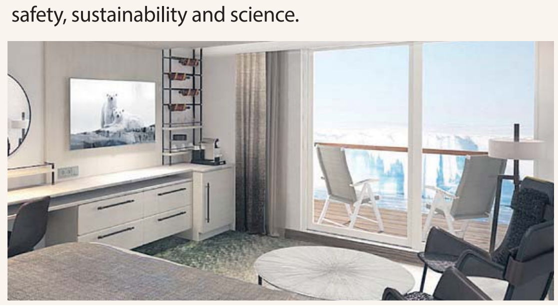
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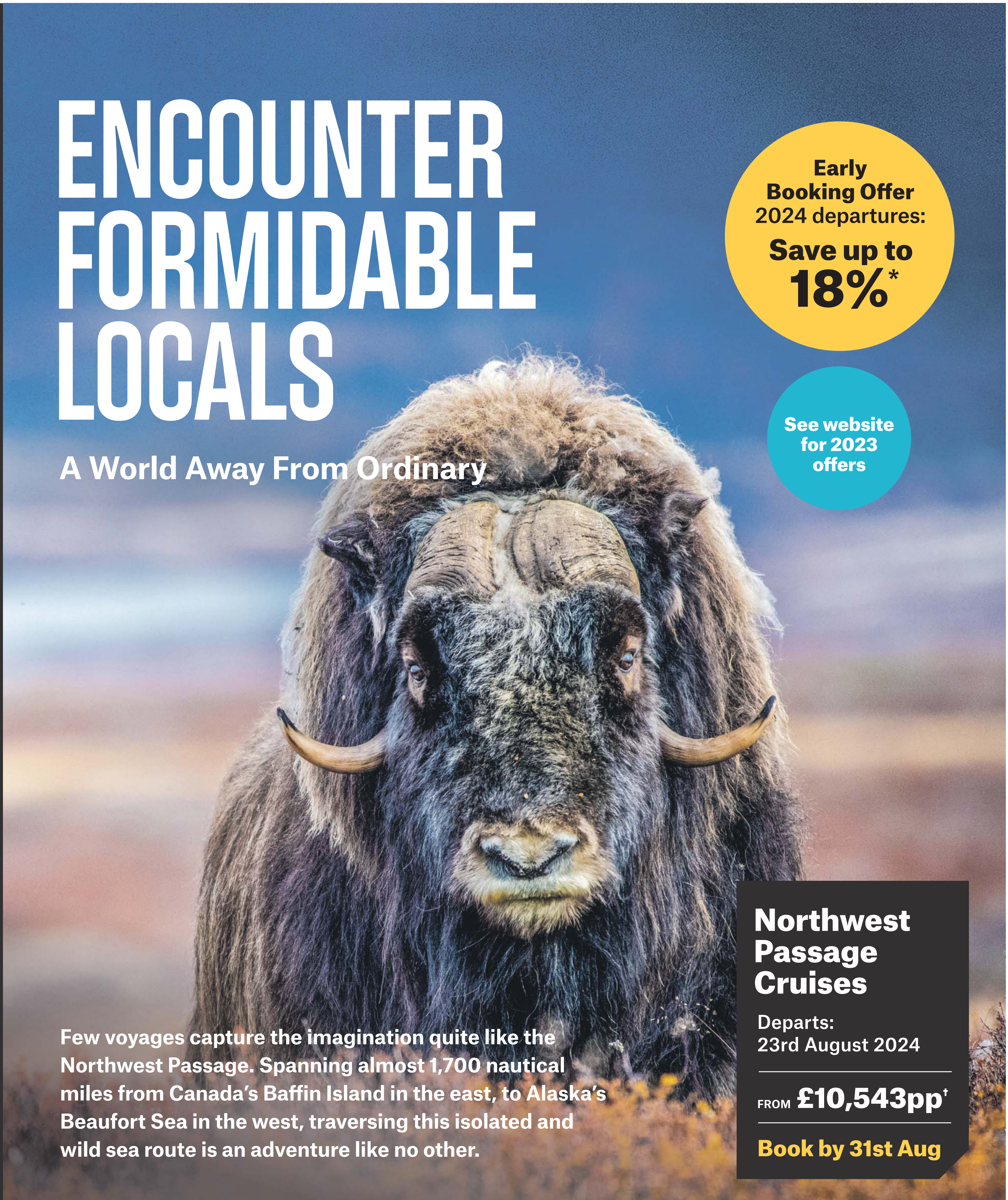
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Stay up among the treetops at this fairytale UK hideaway

These smart new Gloucestershire treehouses offer high design and a front-row seat for a rewilding project. By Lisa Johnson


The fire pit on the deck

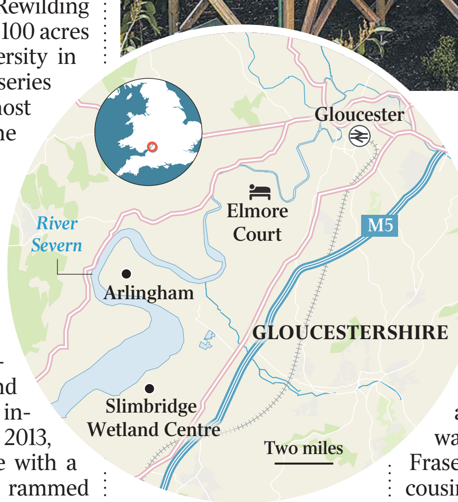

The Sky treehouse


The bedroom in Sky

'That's not a treehouse!" my ten-year-old daughter protests when I show her a picture of where we are going. I try to see the L-shaped cabin through the eyes of someone who had an early obsession with Enid Blyton's *The Faraway Tree*, where fairies live behind itsy-bitsy doors in the trunk. To me, however, the prospect of an outdoor kitchen and bathtub set among, rather than in, the trees seems infinitely more magical.

Thankfully, any lingering objections my daughter might have are dispelled the minute we arrive at our designated "pod", called Sky, 20 minutes' drive from Gloucester train station. One look at the elevated path zigzagging through the laurels and she's off. Emerging in our treehouse on the other side of the woodland, we gaze through hawthorn and hazel over a sunlit scrape (a shallow pond) that could almost be a waterhole in Africa, except with a soundtrack of blackbirds and chaffinches rather than weavers and go-away birds.

Whatever form they take, treehouses have a particular hold on the imagination: of the 850 glamping stays offered by Canopy & Stars, treehouses are the most popular, representing 12 per cent of the collection but three times that in revenue. The six Rewild Things Treehouses at Elmore Court, which open on May 24, are doubly intriguing, in that they hover over 250 acres that the landowner Anselm Guise is in the process of rewilding as wetland and woodland pasture. He has become part of the growing Rewilding Britain network of 227 sites with 100 acres or more, all prioritising biodiversity in what we know from the BBC series *Wild Isles* to be one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world.



The decision to rewild was prompted by Covid, Guise says: he had read *Wilding*, Isabella Tree's book about Knepp in Sussex, and wanted to do something positive with the two former tenant farms that had come back to him. A former organiser of dance music events (and co-founder of Glade Festival), he inherited the house in 2007 and, in 2013, turned it into a wedding venue with a soundproof ballroom made of rammed earth, later restoring the walled garden to produce fruit and veg.

The treehouses were designed by Millar + Howard Workshop, architects of the Dursley Treehouse featured on *Grand Designs*. As I admire Sky's slatted cedar cladding and the frameless picture windows, my daughter discovers the snug — a single bed tucked behind the coffee station at a right angle to the super-king, which was crafted by Guise's cousin Jamie Fraser and also has a trundle (another cousin, the former fashion designer Tracey Boyd, did the chic and cosy interiors). My husband, meanwhile, is inspecting the goodies in our hamper and outdoor fridge, which include unhomogenised milk from Wholly Gelato and bread by Wildfarmed. Alongside the rewilding project, Guise is one of 60 farmers growing wheat according to the regenerative farming method developed by Andy Cato (one half of the electronic music duo Groove Armada), who is on a mission to supply the high street with affordable field-to-plate food, grown in a way that puts carbon back in the soil, adds nutrients to crops and restores ecosystems (wildfarmed.co.uk).

The sun is still shining, so we head out to explore, wandering through a new mixed-deciduous plantation dusted with bluebells. A yellow butterfly flits past (which, as anyone who has read *Finn Family Moomintroll* will know, is the first sign of a happy summer ahead); seven ducklings paddle across a stream; and, as we trudge into a muddy field, a pheasant high-steps through a group of mournful-looking longhorn cattle with their four babies, who are teetering on spindly legs. There are 36 cows and calves here to graze and provide meat, herded virtually by GPS collars. Guise also plans to introduce Tamworth pigs to break up the grass sward and make way for brambles and trees, as well as red deer and Exmoor ponies, as at Knepp. From surveys conducted by the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, he knows that biodiversity is already increasing.

Further up, we spot a hare racing over the hill, and follow him in the direction of Madam's Pool, a spring-fed "bottomless" lake that once watered the estate's orchards. During the pandemic, Guise's ex Sarah launched the ReWild Swim Club here, adding a wood-fired sauna and waterside yoga. A party of women are booked in until 6pm so we wait on the banks of the River Severn near an ancient spreading oak, drinking Wild Thing organic prosecco and watching a waterskier. By the time I dive into the lake from the jetty we are all very hot, which might explain why my husband and daughter — neither of whom has swum in 10C water before — do the same. We stay for an hour, moving from the inky water to the sauna, pretending we are in Finland and our happy summer has already arrived. Back at Sky, the sun has turned the scrapes pink and shelducks are preening themselves on the water.

It's raining the next morning, so we take a 20-minute taxi south to Slimbridge Wetland Centre, where Peter Scott, the artist, conservationist, naval commander, Olympic sailor and son of the Antarctic explorer, painted flocks of geese in flight and founded the original Wildfowl and Wetland Trust (there are now ten across the UK). We wander to the Estuary Tower Hide, where the river is much wider than at Elmore, and see more shelducks, as well as avocets and oystercatchers. The Severn is the longest river in Britain, has one of the highest tides in the world and is an important migratory route for birds and fish. Like so much of Britain, however, the river is polluted and obstructed, meaning the flagship species the curlew and eel are in decline. Both Slimbridge and Elmore Court are part of the Flourishing Floodplains project, which is working to restore these wetland habitats by breaking up ancient drainage pipes and creating scrapes, for example, as at Elmore.

We head back via the Red Lion, a busy community-owned pub in Arlingham. The Sunday roasts and service are excellent (from £17.50; redlionarlingham.co.uk), but many guests will be happy to stay in the treehouses, heating up the delicious gourmet ready meals from the estate kitchens on the outdoor hob or in the indoor combi oven (which Guise hopes to power by solar), and wandering to the ▶

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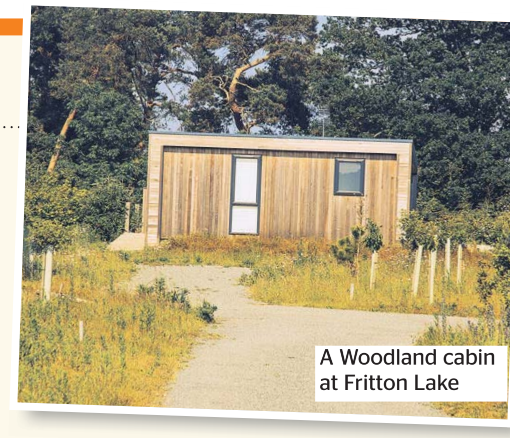
planned vending machine for more Wild Thing prosecco. I go for a walk, see a roe deer leaping across a field and come back to find my daughter playing with the children of the actor Ben Miller, who is also staying here and whose recent children's book, *The Night We Got Stuck in a Story*, was inspired by the rewilding at Elmore Court. It's that kind of place.

On our last night I soak in the magnificent William Holland tin and copper bath, inhaling the essential oils in the Commune bath products, then lie by the fire pit, looking up at the sky. The stars are out and the Plough is right above me, which seems appropriate in a place that is rethinking how farmers work the land. It might be early days but there are lots of wild things here already. If I were the little boy in Maurice Sendak's book *Where the Wild Things Are*, I would be tempted to stay.

Need to know

Lisa Johnson was a guest of Rewild Things Treehouses, which has two nights' self-catering for two from £500; gourmet ready meals from £10pp (rewildthings.com). ReWild Swim Club sessions from £15pp (rewildswimclub.com)

5 more stays on UK rewilding projects



A Woodland cabin at Fritton Lake

Fritton Lake, Suffolk
Since Hugh Crossley introduced low-intensity grazing on 1,000 acres of the Somerleyton estate in 2017, volunteers have recorded an increase in 30 species of birds, moths, butterflies and reptiles, from red kites to the common toad. Guests can SUP or row on the lake then warm up in a floating wood-fired sauna, and during May half-term, parents are invited to "rewild the family" — foraging for supper and eating outside near the deer, Highland cattle, water buffalo, pigs and Exmoor ponies. Stay in the 16th-century clubhouse hotel, or self-cater in a cabin or woodland cottage.
Details B&B doubles from £180, family rooms from £200 for four (frittonlake.co.uk)

Knepp Wildland, West Sussex
Spring is an exciting time at Knepp, with nightingales singing, white stork chicks hatching, and tawny owlets branching in the trees; in late June-July, the purple emperor butterflies are the stars of the show. Charles Burrell gave 3,500 acres back to nature here in 2001, and it is now a poster project for rewilding, as well as being part of the Weald to Waves project, which plans to create a wildlife corridor across the country. The glamping options are booked through the summer, but you can join a Walk on the Wild Side safari (£60pp), then camp in a wildflower meadow and learn how to rewild your own patch by reading *The Book of Wilding* by Isabella Tree, Burrell's wife.
Details Camping from £20pp (knepp.co.uk)



Fallow deer at Knepp

Wildland, Highlands
Founded by the Danish billionaire Anders Povlsen in 2006, Wildland has 220,000 acres under its stewardship, on which it has planted more than four million trees, helping to create the conditions for populations of red squirrel, pine marten, Scottish wildcat, capercaillie and black grouse to recover. It also has a collection of beautifully designed lodges, guesthouses, cottages and a castle. Guests can join wildlife experts on walks into the mountains, and hear about the vision of Cairngorms Connect to enhance the wildlife habitat.
Details Full-board doubles from £450 (wildland.scot)

Wild Ennerdale, Cumbria
To kick-start the rewilding of this secluded northwestern corner of the Lake District National Park, spruce trees were removed and native species planted, sheep numbers reduced and Galloway cattle introduced. Otherwise this tranquil reservoir, known for its challenging horseshoe walk, has been left much to itself for two decades, and populations of Arctic char, red squirrels and marsh fritillary butterflies have expanded (wildennerdale.co.uk). Walkers swoon over the Black Sail YHA en route to the Honister Pass.
Details Room-only from £160 for four; unlimited breakfast £9.95 (yha.org.uk)

Elmley National Nature Reserve, Kent
This isn't rewilding in the sense of stepping back and letting nature do its thing; the 3,300 acres of grazing marsh require intensive management. But this family-owned cattle farm and conservation project is all about restoring biodiversity and allowing nature to flourish. More than 40 bird species breed here, including lapwing and redshank, and Elmley now has a licence to rear curlew eggs. Join a walking tour at dusk (children £12.50; adults £33) and stay in a bell tent, shepherd's hut or cabin with outdoor bath, or the 18th-century farmhouse — they're all beautiful.
Details B&B doubles from £205 (elmleynaturereserve.co.uk)

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Cruise code: RH351.

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Cruise from ~~£2,199~~ **£1,649**^
VINEYARDS AND CASTLES OF THE MOSELLE
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Cruise code: AE113.

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quoting TARVC or visit
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^Fares are per person based on two people sharing a Standard Guarantee Cabin‡ with flights from London Heathrow. *Fares above include any applicable percentage discount off the full fare, were correct at time of going to print and are subject to availability and change. §Fares include optional travel insurance underwritten by Astrenska Insurance Limited, and additional cancellation cover, or a price reduction of £29 (£66 for 8 night cruise) if not required (cover subject to medical questions). Other departure dates, cabin grades and sole occupancy cabins may be available for a supplement. ‡You are guaranteed the minimum cabin grade, terms and conditions apply. Saga reserves the right to withdraw, reduce or amend all offers at any time without notice. Saga's holidays and cruises are exclusively for the over 50s, but a travel companion can be 40+. For more information about financial protection and the ATOL certificate, visit www.atol.org.uk/ATOLCertificate. NHA-RC7646.

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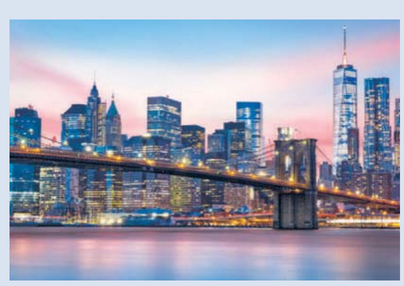
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September, 2024

Cruise Itinerary+
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- ✓ Complimentary tours of Mount Fuji including the Hakone Ropeway cable car, boat trip across Lake Ashi, high-speed bullet train to Tokyo and half-day Tokyo city tour^
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Heythrop Park, Cotswolds

AN ITALIAN INSPIRED PALAZZO

An architectural marvel set in 440 acres of tamed wilderness, Heythrop Park is a sight to behold. Inside, each room blends seamlessly into the next with a perfect balance of modern touches and historic charm. You'll find comfort in every corner, from the spacious lounges to the buzzing bars. An 18-hole championship golf course wraps around this massive structure while climbing hills and winding through woodland to show you the best of The Cotswolds flora and fauna.



Studley Castle, Warwickshire

STAY IN A REAL CASTLE

Amid perfectly manicured green lawns sits a gothic castle that boasts 180 years of history. This adult-only hotel is a true landmark in the Warwickshire countryside, and you'll find everything you need to really unwind while being completely immersed in rural beauty. Inside, comfort blends with luxury to offer guests the one-of-a-kind experience of spending the night in a real castle, while still retaining the homely touches and warm atmosphere that Warner is known for.

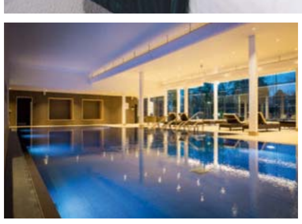


Cricket St. Thomas, Somerset

TV BACKDROP TURNED HOTEL

Once the backdrop of TV's 'To the Manor Born', Cricket St. Thomas is a Regency mansion set in beautiful Somerset countryside. At this classic country house hotel, you can wander through stunning grounds which were designed by the world-famous Capability Brown. Inside, the deep armchairs, high-ceilinged lounges, and traditional tea rooms offer an extra air of elegance while you overlook the serene lake, making any short break feel like more of an occasion.







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- Large breakfasts and three course dinners with a wide selection of unique menus to choose from
- Access to on-site spa and leisure facilities including heated pools, saunas, and gyms
- Daily indoor and outdoor activities including archery, rifle shooting and walking tours
- A different show every night featuring everything from live bands to comedy acts and even original production shows

HEYTHROP PARK, COTSWOLDS

DATE	NIGHTS	WHAT'S ON	THE TIMES EXCLUSIVE PRICES FROM
29 May	4	Make more of your Bank Holiday. Starring The Jerseys - The UK`s leading tribute to Frankie Valli & The Four Seasons and the smash hit musical 'The Jersey Boys'.	£388pp
30 June	3	Starring Nashville Bad Boys of Country bring their fabulous stage show celebrating the baddest and very best of Nashville	£389pp
28 July	3	Starring The Arg Band - James Argent star of reality TV, brings his own band to entertain you with a great mix of hits from the past and today	£409pp
31 July	4	Featuring The 3 Tones who combine in perfect harmony covering swing, big band, musical theatre, opera & Rock 'n' Roll	£498pp

STUDLEY CASTLE, WARWICKSHIRE

DATE	NIGHTS	WHAT'S ON	THE TIMES EXCLUSIVE PRICES FROM
2 June	3	Featuring Twisted Anthems, with some of the biggest anthems from Bon Jovi, Queen, Phil Collins and even Nessun Dorma, plus Tor Hills with hits from artists such as Adele, Cher and Elton John	£299pp
19 June	4	Featuring comedy talent Ben Nickless, plus Andrew Bourn, bringing you "The Essentials" from the best of swing and popular music	£398pp
3 July	4	Featuring comedy from Adrian Walsh, plus Leanne Jarvis - Voice UK finalist and vocalist for Strictly Pro tour	£468pp
24 July	4	Asa Elliott, best known as the charming crooner in the hit TV series Benidorm, plus comedy from Jamie Sutherland	£498pp

CRICKET ST THOMAS, SOMERSET

DATE	NIGHTS	WHAT'S ON	THE TIMES EXCLUSIVE PRICES FROM
29 May	4	Make more of your Bank Holiday. Featuring Jack Ollett, comedy from Noel Brodie, and Danielle Grace Williams with powerhouse vocals and soulful sax	£339pp
16 June	3	Featuring Women In Rock - a journey through the world's greatest female rock artists from Joplin to Quatro, Turner to Cher and more	£315pp
30 June	3	Featuring Genesis Connected celebrating the huge hits of Genesis, Phil Collins, Peter Gabriel and Mike and the Mechanics, plus Duncan Heather – The Rock Tenor Show	£319pp
24 July	4	Featuring the vocal talent of Rob Linacre, plus Tank Sherman, the legendary and hilarious West Country story-teller and comedian	£339pp

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Escorted Tour of South America with English Speaking Guide

DISCOVER
Rio De Janeiro, Christ The Redeemer & Sugar Loaf Mountain

STAND IN AWE
Of Machu Picchu & Incredible Iguazu Falls

14 NIGHTS
5★ All Inclusive Cruising Onboard MS Oosterdam

DAY 1: FLY UK TO RIO DE JANEIRO
*Regional Departure Airports Available**
On arrival into Rio, meet your local guide and transfer to the Hotel.

DAY 2: RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL
Today is for you to spend at leisure to explore one of the best cities in the world at your own pace.

DAY 3: RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL *Included: Christ Redeemer & Sugar Loaf Mountain*



Visit the famous Corcovado (Christ), and enjoy a BBQ lunch before a photoshop at the iconic Selaron Steps. Then, visit Sugar Loaf by cable car.

DAY 4: RIO DE JANEIRO TO IGUAZU, ARGENTINA *Included: Iguazu Falls Guided Tour (Brazilian Side)* Fly from Rio to Iguazu. On arrival, enjoy a tour of the Brazilian Side of the falls before transferring to your Argentinian hotel to enjoy the remainder of the day free at leisure.

DAY 5: IGUAZU FALLS, ARGENTINA *Included: Iguazu Falls Guided Tour (Argentinian Side)*
Spend today on the Argentinian side of the falls, including the chance to visit the suspended platform at the very brink of the Devil's Throat- the largest of the waterfalls.

DAY 6: IGUAZU TO BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
Included: Dinner & Tango Show Enjoy time at leisure until you are transferred to the airport for your flight to Buenos Aires. On arrival, you will be transferred to your hotel with an evening Tango Dinner Show.

DAY 7: EMBARK 5★ OOSTERDAM

DAY 8: BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA
Visually similar to Europe with a Latin American edge, this capital city has a rich & vibrant history.

DAY 9: MONTEVIDEO, URUGUAY
Montevideo is renowned for its colloquial markets and rich culture. From subtle tango bars to classical auditoriums, there's a fit for everyone in Uruguay's graceful capital.

DAY 10-11: AT SEA

DAY 12: STANLEY, FALKLAND ISLANDS
The world's southernmost capital, Stanley is located in the Falklands archipelago and home to an astonishing population of penguins, seals and albatross.



DAY 13: STRAIT OF MAGELLAN, CHILE
The Strait of Magellan is a sea route in southern Chile separating mainland South America to the north and Tierra del Fuego to the south.

DAY 14: PUNTA ARENAS, COCKBURN CHANNEL, BEAGLE CHANNEL & GLACIER ALLEY, CHILE
Punta Arenas is the gateway city to Patagonia's southern end. Full of unique character, this windswept metropolis combines grand architectural designs with lived-in streets.

DAY 15: USHUAIA, ARGENTINA
The city is the perfect spot for exploring attractions such as Lapataia National Park, the 'train to the end of the world' and a spot of bird watching.

DAY 16: CAPE HORN, CHILE
Cape Horn marks where the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans meet at the northern point of the Drake Passage.

DAY 17: SARMIENTO CHANNEL, CHILE
Sarmiento is one of the main channels in Patagonia and the region has been inhabited by the Kaweskar people for more than 6,000 years.

DAY 18: CHILEAN FJORDS
These Fjords are some of the most spectacular fjords in the world. If you're lucky enough you may also see an Andean condor

DAY 19: PUERTO MONTT, CHILE
The surrounding glacial Lake District and mountainous parks have made Puerto Montt an important destination for travellers.

DAY 20: AT SEA

DAY 21: DISEMBARK 5★ OOSTERDAM IN SAN ANTONIO, CHILE
After disembarkation, you will fly onwards to Lima to start the next part of your adventure! On arrival into Lima, check in to your hotel.

DAY 22: LIMA, PERU
Included: Lima City Tour
Explore Lima's old town, a UNESCO World Heritage Site. Begin at the traditional Pueblo Libre district, where you visit the Larco Museum, located in a beautifully restored viceregal mansion

DAY 23: LIMA TO CUSCO, PERU
Included: Cusco Guided Tour
Fly on to Cusco. Upon arrival visit the Coricancha 'Temple of the Sun', Sacsayhuaman built by Inca Pachacutec in the 15th Century. Ending your tour at the Cathedral in the main square before your overnight stay in Cusco.

DAY 24: CUSCO TO MACHU PICCHU, PERU
Included: Sacred Valley Guided Tour
Enjoy a tour of the beautiful Sacred Valley. After lunch, visit the town of Ollantaytambo before boarding your Vistadome train to Machu Picchu! Check in to your hotel for a 2 night stay.

DAY 25: MACHU PICCHU, PERU
Included: Machu Picchu Guided Tour
Arguably the best part of the whole tour, a guided visit to the Incan ruins of Machu Picchu. You will have some free time to explore this amazing site before heading back to your hotel

DAY 26: CUSCO TO LIMA, PERU
Transfer back to Cusco where you will then fly onwards to Lima. On arrival, check in to your hotel for an overnight stay.

DAY 27: FLY LIMA TO UK
*Regional Arrival Airports Available**
Your time in South America has come to an end. Transfer to the airport for your overnight flight back to the UK

DAY 28: ARRIVE UK *Itinerary Will Vary By Date

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Date / £pp	Inside	Ocean View	Balcony	Single
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27 Feb 2025	7149	7449	7799	9749

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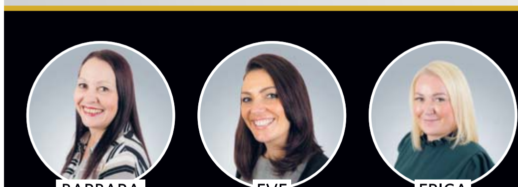
Date / £pp	Inside	Ocean View	Balcony	Mini Suite	Single
11 Feb 2024	5999→5999		6649	7349	7799

Also Available With Celebrity Cruises
5★ CELEBRITY ECLIPSE - 26 NIGHTS

Date / £pp	Inside	Ocean View	Balcony	Concierge	Single
06 Mar 2024	6699	7049	7299	7599	9099

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- ✓ Guided Tour of Cusco & The Sacred Valley
- ✓ Guided Tour of Lima with UNESCO World Heritage site
- ✓ Enjoy a Unique View of Devil's Throat At Iguazu Falls
- ✓ Feel The Rhythm At An Evening Tango Show With Dinner In Buenos Aires
- ✓ Board The Vistadome Train To Machu Picchu
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- Two visits to ancient Breisach and Lucerne
- Cruise through the spectacular Rhine Gorge
- **Selected departures May to October 2023 and 2024**

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Day One - Arrival in Cologne

Arrive in Düsseldorf or Cologne for your transfer to your ship.

Day Two - Koblenz

Today we explore this historic city beautifully located at the confluence of the Rhine and its sister river the Moselle. Discover Koblenz's maze of medieval buildings in the Altstadt – old town – which is studded with a fine array of traditional shops and classic Rhineland cafés.

Day Three - Rhine Gorge and Rüdesheim

Today we weave through the impressive river bend at Boppard, a wonderfully picturesque town known as the 'Pearl of the Rhine'. Journeying further, the Rhine Gorge gives way to it's steep vineyards, and rocky outcrops towering more than 600 feet above the sweeping valley sides.

After lunch we moor in Rüdesheim and take a walking tour of this classic Rhine wine village with crooked houses sloping down from wooded hillsides and terraced vineyards.

Day Four - Speyer

Today we berth in historic Speyer, founded by the Celts and one of Germany's oldest cities, celebrated for its illustrious past, for an afternoon walking tour.

Day Five - Strasbourg

This morning we arrive in France and moor in Strasbourg, capital of the Alsace region. This afternoon we have a walking tour of its picturesque Old Town, bisected by canals and made up of a maze of narrow streets lined with timber-framed houses and sculptured portals.

Day Six - Breisach and Black Forest

Your final day cruising is spent gliding through the dramatic scenery of the rift valley separating the Vosges and Black Forest mountains. We arrive at the ancient town of Breisach, whose historic heart is surrounded by stone ramparts and dominated by the impressive Saint Stephan's Cathedral.

Day Seven - Lucerne and Bernese Oberland

Today we take the short drive to Lucerne, situated among stunning mountain views. Highly recommended is a stroll along the Chapel Bridge, a covered wooden walkway crossing the lake, supported by stilts and lined with colourful flower-filled window boxes.

As you enter the Bernese Oberland in central Switzerland, the views become quite literally breathtaking! We then ascend by mountain railway for more extraordinary vistas, with the crystal-clear lakes reflecting the meadows and forests below.

Day Eight - Return flight or train

Today we transfer either to the airport for your flight home or the railway station to take the TGV to Paris, connecting with the Eurostar.

On some departures itinerary operates in reverse.

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The Times hotel guide

The Queen's Head

Wiltshire

Rooms and suites 9/10
Food and drink 8/10
What else does it offer? n/a
Where is it? 9/10
Overall score 8.5/10


A double bedroom


The restaurant

Chickpea Group is the Pig hotels of the pub world, with a similar shabby-chic meets fuss-free food formula. The co-founders, Tommy Tullis and siblings Ethan and Jordan Davids, have put their own spin on the concept and come up trumps. The Queen's Head, which opened in March, is their fifth pub. Their fourth, the Bell & Crown in Zeals, Wiltshire, is our Pub of the Year for 2023. The Queen's has the typical features of a 19th-century inn — flagstone floors, low-flying beams and blazing fires — but its location is anything but standard. Broad Chalke, nine miles west of Salisbury, is an idyllic bundle of thatched cottages and a Saxon church wrapped up in chalk streams and rolling downs.

Rooms and suites

Affordability is key to the Chickpea ethos so rooms are warm, welcoming and a cracking bargain. Expect king-size beds with great mattresses, duck-down duvets and Egyptian cotton linen rather than butlers and minibars.

The four bedrooms are in a modern annexe off the pub's wisteria-clad courtyard. They are spacious but architecturally anonymous, and decorated in restful shades from mushroom to moss, with sisal coverings for the floors, cosy armchairs and perky artwork. It's a shame they have only showers, but disappointment is curbed by the first-rate Land&Water toiletries and complimentary buttery shortbread.

Food and drink

After a pint of the local Rude Giant beer, we head through for a candlelit dinner. My curried cauliflower soup and crispy pakora is nicely spicy and the grilled aubergine and courgette with baba ghanoush satisfyingly rich, while my husband's beef and stout pie with mash and mushy peas is indecently generous. We share an entirely unnecessary steamed pudding with rhubarb compote and custard.

Susan d'Arcy was a guest of the Queen's Head, which has B&B doubles from £95; mains from £16 (chickpea.group)

Breakfast covers all bases from healthy turmeric and ginger shots to bloody marys, and from a half-English to the full-on WeightWatchers nightmare.

What else does it offer?

You'll just have to make do with fine ales, finer food and the finest views.

Where is it?

Spot brown hares and buzzards and be serenaded by skylarks on the three-hour circular walk from the pub through Fifield Downs. Salisbury's 13th-century cathedral and 16th-century Wilton House are a 20-minute drive away.

Susan d'Arcy





Travel doctor Solving your holiday dilemmas



Julia Brookes
Consumer expert



ALAMY

Water taxi on the Grand Canal, Venice. Below: salt flats in Uyuni, Bolivia



Q I'm 74 and want to see Venice before I die. I'll be travelling alone in the autumn and would like to see as much culture as I can over four or five days. Can you recommend a hotel and maybe the best weeks to take this kind of trip? Also, is there some kind of pass that can be bought to access the locations and sights I wish to see? What should I book in advance?
Susan Lurie

A An excellent plan. I'd recommend going in November when it's slightly quieter and staying in a small hotel where staff will be happy to help with advice and restaurant bookings. Try the (Venetian) family-run, nine-room Novecento Boutique Hotel tucked away in Calle del Dose da Ponte, between St Mark's Square and the Accademia Bridge. It has a pretty courtyard garden, a cosy reading room with an honesty bar and avoids single-use plastics. Four nights' B&B in early November starts at about £1,100 (novecento.biz).

It's worth buying the Museum Pass, which gets you entry to the Doge's Palace and ten other museums, and since you're over 65 you'll only pay £21. All you need to book in advance is the Secret Itineraries tour of the Doge's Palace (including the torture chambers and the prison cell where Casanova was kept), which is not included in the pass and which will cost you £19 (buy both on muve.vivaticket.it). One experience you might splash out on is a private water taxi to your hotel from the airport — it's the most glorious way to arrive (£113, motoscafivenezia.com/it). But if this feels too extravagant, there's also a public water shuttle (alilaguna.it).

Q Having accumulated a chunk of annual leave, I'm hoping to travel to South America for four to five weeks this autumn or winter, but am a bit torn about where and when. Ideally it would be during some part of October/November or January/February, and avoiding rainy seasons where possible. I've considered going as part of a small group (I am 27 so would prefer a somewhat younger crowd) or solo, or a mix, and would like to fly from London. What can you suggest?
Tony Gordon

A Intrepid Travel has trips for 18-29s and its 25-night Epic Peru, Bolivia and Argentina tour covers many of South America's greatest hits (you might want to add a few days' R&R at the start to acclimatise to the high altitude). You'd go trekking in the Amazon jungle, walk in the footsteps of the Inca (or if you'd rather take it easy, hop on a train) to Machu Picchu, explore Bolivia's extraordinary salt flats and drink some fabulous malbecs in Buenos Aires. It's graded "basix" and you can expect everything from an overnight bus ride to stays in jungle lodges and campsites. Go in October/November for the best weather: a tour departing on October 30 starts at £4,680pp, sharing a room and including breakfast and some meals. Staying in a single room costs £920 extra (intrepidtravel.com). International flights are not included: fly to Lima and back from Buenos Aires.

Q I need some advice on where to stay for a four to five-day family break in London in August. We have a seven-year-old and five-year-old twins and most hotels seem to have a four-person occupancy limit, so two rooms have to be booked and we're looking at £2,000 for room-only. Somewhere central for the sights would be ideal, but we're happy to travel. Any ideas?
Craig Donnelly

A It might be a surprising spot to recommend for families, but I don't think you'll be disappointed by the Hilton London Canary Wharf, which has special treats for the under-12s and lovely interconnecting family rooms sleeping up to five, which start at £380 per night for B&B in August. Join its loyalty club to get the cheapest rates and free wi-fi (hilton.com). It may not be central but it's a quick journey into central London on the Docklands Light Railway (the children will love sitting at the front of the train pretending to drive it) or the Elizabeth Line, and you could be beside Big Ben within 20 minutes, while Uber Boats zip along the Thames to Westminster Pier and the London Eye in about half an hour. In Canary Wharf the Museum of London Docklands is brilliant for children, and free.

Q I'm booked on a 14-night cruise to the EU departing from the UK in a couple of weeks. Although my passport expires in January, the ten-year anniversary of the issue date falls in the time I'm due to be away, so I renewed my old passport online more than two months ago. It has yet to arrive. I had photocopied all my original passport's details, but the cruise company I'm travelling with has only advised me to wait for my new passport to arrive and if it doesn't, I will be unable to travel and to claim on my insurance. Such a disaster. Do I have any other options?
Philip Evans

A What's especially galling about your situation is that you didn't need to renew your passport to go on this trip. UK travellers visiting Schengen countries in the EU must have passports that are less than ten years old on the day they travel (and be valid for three months from the day they plan to leave the bloc) and the fact that this milestone would be reached during the trip is irrelevant. But if you can't cope with the uncertainty, your options now are to get a passport urgently using the online premium service, which requires an appointment (good luck), and cancellation of your other application. Or you can try to persuade the cruise company to move the date of your trip. Unfortunately, as you say, insurance won't help here.

Contact us

If you have a gripe, suggestion or question relating to your holidays, please email **traveldoctor@thetimes.co.uk**

Don't put up with this

Hit for £600 for flight change

I recently booked flights to Boston and then discovered we were coming back on American Airlines, not British Airways (this is a very easy mistake to make). I was worried that we wouldn't get the flatbed experience that was the point of the extra outlay, and as BA offers a full refund for bookings cancelled within 24 hours, I then tried to cancel. But it wasn't that obvious how to do it and I attempted to change the flights instead. For this I was charged £600, but then found I had the date wrong.

At this point, I went back and successfully cancelled the entire flight. BA has since refunded the original cost but is refusing to return the £600 even though this relates to a cancelled flight and both errors were within the 24-hour cut-off period. Can you help?
Brian Caplan

In fact American Airlines does have flatbeds in business class, so you needn't have worried, but your big mistake was to attempt to make the change online.

British Airways is one of the few carriers to give a full refund within 24 hours of booking (Virgin Atlantic is another), as long as you've made the booking at least seven days before your flight date, but only if you ring one of its call centres. That said, a £600 penalty for making a mistake and trying to cancel online seemed harsh, and it has now agreed to refund you.



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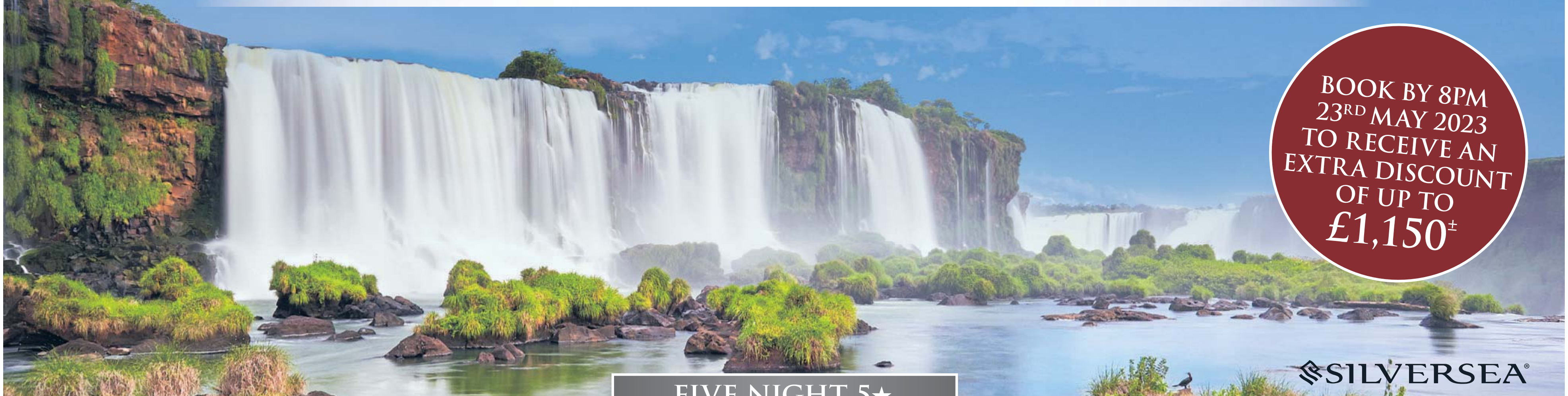
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Sun 16 — **Buenos Aires, Argentina**
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Mon 17 — **Buenos Aires, Argentina**
★Dinner & tango show×★
Explore during the day and later enjoy an included Argentine tango show with dinner at the Café de los Angelitos (B, D)

Tue 18 — **Buenos Aires, Argentina – ★Iguazú Falls★**
After breakfast, transfer to the airport for your flight to Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil. Upon arrival, transfer to a 5★ hotel‡ for your two night stay, including breakfast (B)

Wed 19 — **★Iguazú Falls – Full day tour included×★**
Enjoy a full day tour of the Argentinian falls. Visiting the lower circuit, feel part of nature as you are refreshed with waterfall drizzle! Visiting the upper circuit, pause at different viewpoints before reaching the balcony at the Garganta del Diablo (Devil's Throat), the most amazing of all the falls (B)

Thu 20 — **★Iguazú Falls – Half-day tour included×★ – Buenos Aires, Argentina**
Take the elevator down to the base of the falls and admire them from right above the river level. Next, marvel at the falls from a 1,000-metre-long footbridge or take the elevator up to the Salto Floreano viewpoint. Later, transfer to the airport for your flight back to Buenos Aires. Upon arrival, transfer to a 5★ hotel‡ for your overnight stay, including breakfast (B)

Fri 21 — **Buenos Aires, Argentina**
After breakfast, transfer to the port and embark the brand-new ultra-luxurious *Silver Ray* for your 10 night all-inclusive voyage, starting with an overnight stay on board (B)

Sat 22 — **Buenos Aires, Argentina**
★Recommended COMPLIMENTARY Excursion×: Inspiring Evita

Sun 23 — **Montevideo, Uruguay** (depart late night)

Mon 24 — **Punta del Este, Uruguay**

Thu 27 — **Itajai, Brazil**

Fri 28 — **Ilhabela, Brazil**

MARCH 2025

Sat 1 - Sun 2 — **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil** (two night stay)
★Rio Carnival××★
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★Recommended COMPLIMENTARY Excursion×: Rio & Sugarloaf
Explore the splendid architecture, culture and landmarks of historic and modern-day Rio during this scenic half-day sightseeing tour of the city and Sugarloaf Mountain

Mon 3 — **Rio de Janeiro, Brazil**
This morning, transfer to the airport for overnight flight to London>

Tue 4 — **Arrive in London**

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Discover the Wonders of Japan in Cherry Blossom

Each year Japan transforms into a pink Arcadia as cherry trees (Sakura) are awash with their seasonal bloom. This natural marvel is so well followed in Japan, it even makes the daily weather report. Very few realise that Japan is an archipelago of 6,852 islands, of which only 430 are inhabited. Japan's southernmost islands are subtropical, and here cherry blossoms can open from as early as January whereas further north, this can be as late as May. All the while people gather under the blossoms for food, drink, songs and company to celebrate Hanami, a long-standing tradition of welcoming spring. To fully experience the natural beauty of Tokyo, head to Yoyogi Park to see the resplendent cherry blossoms flourishing at this magical time of year.

14 NIGHTS DEPARTING 15TH & 25TH MARCH 2024

Day 1 **Fly overnight from London to Tokyo, Japan>**

Day 2 **Tokyo, Japan**
Upon arrival, transfer to a 4★ hotel‡ for your two night stay, including breakfast. The rest of the day is yours to spend as you wish

Day 3 **Tokyo, Japan**
Explore the most intriguing of cities, from the city's oldest and most famous Buddhist temple, Sensō-ji, to the Edo-Tokyo Museum which documents the city's transformation to the modern metropolis it is today. To get a feel for Tokyo's natural beauty, head to Yoyogi Park, where cherry blossoms are resplendent in spring. Close by is Meiji Jingu Shrine. Established in 1920, the shrine is dedicated to Emperor Meiji who helped to open Japan up to the west and is a must-see (B)



Day 4 **Tokyo, Japan**
After breakfast, transfer to the port in Yokohama and embark ***Diamond Princess®*** for your 10 night Japan voyage during cherry blossom season (B)

Day 6 **Kagoshima, Japan**
The majestic view of Mt. Sakurajima, dominates Kagoshima's landscape. The city itself overflows with historic sightseeing spots including the memorial site of St. Francisco Xavier, who landed in Kagoshima and first introduced Christianity to Japan

Day 7 **Nagasaki, Japan**
Nagasaki is both vibrant and peaceful and boasts an array of churches, shrines, temples and gastronomic delights alongside its museums, monuments and memorials



Day 8 **Busan, South Korea**

Day 9 **Sasebo, Japan**

Day 10 **Shimonoseki, Japan**
Cruising the Kanmon Straits

Day 11 **Beppu, Japan**
Beppu is renowned throughout Japan and across the world for its onsen hot springs and bathing opportunities; you don't have to look too far around for steam rising from vents in the earth

Day 12 **Wakayama, Japan**

Day 14 **Yokohama, Japan**
Disembark and transfer to the airport in Tokyo for your overnight flight to London>

Day 15 **Arrive in London**

Days not mentioned are spent relaxing at sea. Itinerary is based on the 15th March 2024 departure and ports of call may vary on other date. Please note cherry blossom season may vary. Meals are included in the hotel as stated: B = Breakfast. All meals are included on the cruise

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THE TIMES
Saturday May 13 2023

saturday review





7-DAY TV & RADIO GUIDE page 23

Laura Freeman
The slum cottages in Cambridge that became an artwork



Yeehaw! It's Brokeback, the musical

The cowboy lovers ride into the West End

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NEIL NORMAN, Daily Mirror

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SUZI FEAY, FINANCIAL TIMES

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OLIVIA GARRETT, RadioTimes

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ED GLEAVE, Daily Star Sunday

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ALEX WOOD, WhatsOnStage

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QUENTIN LETTS, THE SUNDAY TIMES

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STEFAN KYRIAZIS, SUNDAY EXPRESS

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SAM MARLOWE, i

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DAVID BENEDICT, VARIETY



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What the critics are watching and listening to



UPPER STREET/ STYLOPIC/ A PIECRUST AND HIGHLAND MIDGIE PRODUCTION/SKY

Colin Morgan plays a disillusioned IRA operative in the Guard brothers' film Dead Shot

Film

Dead Shot

From Ronan Bennett, the creator of the television series *Top Boy*, this stars Colin Morgan as Michael, an IRA operative in 1975 who has fallen out of love with the cause. His beloved, heavily pregnant wife, Carol (Máiréad Tyers), has, thanks to Michael's notoriety, been mistakenly shot and killed during a British Army sting. Amid slickly choreographed shoot-outs and assassination attempts, Michael's journey becomes an existential quest to understand the futility of violence and the moral repugnance of murder. The secret weapon in all this is the directorial duo the Guard brothers (Charles and Thomas), who bring precision to a project that could easily have been bogged down in telly drama-style miserabilism. Instead, every scene bristles with authorship and a sense of aesthetic purpose. *Sky Cinema*
Kevin Maher

Theatre

Bleak Expectations

What larks! Mark Evans's Dickensian parody, full of cheeky puns and gleefully overcooked melodrama, won a cult following on Radio 4, then last year made an assured transition to the stage when it had a brief run at the intimate Watermill in Berkshire. Now it gets the West End treatment, with guest narrators dropping in throughout the run. Dermot O'Leary is doing the honours this weekend. Sally Phillips, Sue Perkins and Robert Lindsay are among those lined up. *Criterion Theatre, London W1 (bleak-expectations.com), to Sep 3*
Clive Davis

Opera

Don Giovanni

Roll out the quiche (coronation or otherwise) and dust off your tux: the summer opera season officially kicks off as the Glyndebourne festival begins. It opens with *Don Giovanni*, a house favourite, but one that has been patchily served over the years (the opera is notoriously a "director's graveyard"). The director Mariame Clément has promised a more feminist take on opera's greatest womaniser. Russians and Ukrainians pack out the cast, which must have made for vibrant rehearsals. *Glyndebourne, Lewes (glyndebourne.com), Fri and in rep to Jul 15*
Neil Fisher

Comedy

Frankie Boyle: Lap of Shame

"I've mellowed a bit over the years," Boyle said when he launched this show at the Fringe last summer, in between references to the Twin Towers and Aids. That, as you might imagine, is just the start of the "mellowness" — condemnation of the government, the royal family, Joe Biden, you name it. Yet Boyle is not just sour and unfeeling, he's also an immensely gifted joke writer. Behind the "everything's rubbish" scowl he evinces a secret joy at locating poetical patterns of human dysfunction. He's strategically awful, and at his poetically poisonous best he's awfully funny too. *New Victoria Theatre, Woking, Sun; Cliffs Pavilion, Southend, Mon; Cliff Rocks Theatre, Hastings, Tue, touring to Jan (frankieboyle.com)*
Dominic Maxwell

Dance

DanceWest Fest

DanceWest Fest, the London festival formerly known as Ignition, returns after an absence of five years to showcase new work by a quartet of choreographers. Among them is Lea Anderson, whose new piece reunites her with two of the original members of the Cholmondeleys, the 1980s all-female troupe fondly remembered for their spirited wit. Also contributing new choreography are Jamaal Burkmar, Gerrard Martin and James Wilton Dance. *Lyric Hammersmith, London W6 (lyric.co.uk), Fri and May 20; Rose Theatre, Kingston, Jun 17*
Debra Craine

Pop

Beyoncé

American pop stars exhibit a level of professionalism and showbusiness pizzazz that we scruffy, disorganised British are simply not capable of, and that's what you get when you go to a Beyoncé concert. Alongside the big hits *Crazy in Love*, *Single Ladies* and many more, there will be myriad costume changes, small armies of backing dancers, some words of affirmation and a general mood of uplift and positivity. It is why she remains the biggest pop star on the planet. *Principality Stadium, Cardiff, Wed, then touring*
Will Hodgkinson

Visual art

Gwen John: Art and Life in London and Paris

Proud and amorous, spirited and silent, solitary and sensual, Gwen John was a far more radical figure than her pale, pensive portraits and high-buttoned collars suggest. She has been Gwen John the sister of Augustus John, bohemian, satyr and painter of portraits of anybody who was anybody in the first half of the 20th century. She has been Gwen John the mistress of Auguste Rodin, master of French sculpture, daring draughtsman and collector of ancient artefacts and modern models. Here, in a solo show for the first time, she is simply Gwen John: artist. *Pallant House, Chichester (pallant.org.uk), to Oct 8*
Laura Freeman

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Cover photograph
Manuel Harlan

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cover story

A horse-riding 'date' got us close

How do you remake the cinematic Brokeback Mountain as a play? By throwing the rulebook out of the window, its lead actors Mike Faist and Lucas Hedges tell Dominic Maxwell



It was one of those rare films that burnt its way into the public imagination, even if you hadn't actually seen it. When *Brokeback Mountain* came out in 2005 it helped to cement the stardom of Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger, who played the sheep herders who fall in love over a summer's work in 1963 Wyoming. From its hillside landscapes, taciturn exchanges and vigorous sex through to the way it depicted two decades of frustration amid marriages, repressed sexuality and unexpressed emotions, its heartbreaking depiction of these two men was hugely cinematic.

So how, 18 years on, can *Brokeback Mountain* be a play? What's more, a play with songs? "There are a million reasons not to do this because of all the greatness that has preceded it," says Mike Faist, 31, the American actor who is playing the Gyllenhaal role of Jack Twist and recently got rave reviews and a Bafta nomination for his role as Riff in Steven Spielberg's *West Side Story* remake.

His eyes light up with mischief. "The truth of the matter is, you can only screw it up." Sitting in a comfy nook in @sohoplace in London, the West End venue whose in-the-round intimacy was part of the draw for both of the show's American stars, he roars with laughter.

So, to his left, does Lucas Hedges, only 26, but famous for his roles as teenagers in films such as *Three Billboards Outside Ebbing, Missouri*, *Lady Bird* and *Manchester by the Sea*, for which he received an Oscar nomination. "I love the idea that we are the first people doing it as a play," he says. "Some things are so good, you think, 'Why not do them again? Why not share the wealth?'"

Faist admits that he is joking about the risks at play. Or partly joking, anyway. He's a qualified pilot and left his prestigious New York acting school after two terms because he felt he was ready for the real world, so it's fair to say he quite likes a risk. "It's like, you shouldn't touch a hot plate, so I go, 'No, I'm going to put my whole hand on it instead.' There is something really thrilling about that. We've got everything to lose, so let's go for it."

And the truth is, Ang Lee's film was just one version of a short story, by Annie Proulx, that first appeared in The New Yorker in 1997. The film was loyal to its source material while adding some moments of its own. That's something everyone concerned with the play will point out — from the director Jonathan Butterell and the adapter Ashley Robinson to the songwriter Dan Gillespie Sells, who worked with Butterell on the musical *Everybody's Talking About Jamie*. And while this is the world premiere of *Brokeback Mountain* the play, Ivo van Hove directed an opera version in Madrid in 2014, with a libretto by Proulx.

The question persists, though: how do you compete with the images so many people know? Well, you take a different tack. The deprivation, sexual repression and wide open vistas of Wyoming are conveyed instead through the acting, the dialogue Robinson has added and Gillespie Sells's plaintive country songs. The characters don't sing, though: the music is performed by a band fronted by the Scottish singer Eddi Reader as "the Balladeer".

'I'm a physical person. I just come at everything from an outside-in perspective'

So: the film is a slightly moot point. "Oh, I don't even want to look at a photo of the movie," Hedges says. "It's great, I saw it a long time ago, but I really don't need to see it now."

When Faist was offered the job last November, though, he made sure to watch it again. Hedges's eyes widen at this. "Did you? Oh hell…"

"Yeah, I watched it," Faist says matter-of-factly. "It's a great movie. And those guys are amazing. But at the end of the day it's going to be different no matter what." He did the same for Riff. He watched the original *West Side Story* film once, during auditions. "And then I didn't touch it. Same thing: I couldn't do what Russ Tamblyn did [in the original], I wouldn't want to, and that's not the point. The point is I have to pull from my life experience and what makes me me and bring that to the table. That's the job."

As you may have picked up by now, they are contrasting characters, these cowboys. Faist, with his wiry physique and quick wits, slowly sinks into the banquette over the course of our hour together, sometimes talking horizontally. He is funny, statesmanlike, pretty cool. Hedges, meanwhile, sits upright, talks thoughtfully, sincerely, and if he gets lost in his slightly cosmic musings about the nature of their craft he will apologise for it with bashful charm.

They appear friendly. Their different energies, though, make them almost a parody of an extrovert and an introvert at play. And as Faist opines about acting, storytelling, the responsibility of flying with passengers for the first time or his domestic arrangements — "I live out of my truck" — Hedges will coo like a younger sibling being inducted into something unexpectedly exciting by his big bro.





WAY OUT WEST Mike Faist and Lucas Hedges as Jack and Riff and, below, in rehearsal; Jake Gyllenhaal and Heath Ledger in the film

This should work rather well with their characters, Ennis, the Heath Ledger role played by Hedges, being the more taciturn one. Hedges, by his own admission, can overthink things — before he got the offer to do this play, he was at home in Brooklyn writing stories for a potential book. He plans to get back to them later: his father, Peter Hedges, is a writer-director whose screenplays include *What's Eating Gilbert Grape* and *About a Boy*, and who directed Lucas alongside Julia Roberts in his film *Ben Is Back*.

It was his father who warned him to be ready for when the "embarrassment of riches" of his first flush of work as a young film actor died down. "I was able to go, 'OK, what do I really want to do with my life?' Because life is not about 'What's the next hot project?' So I was starting to shift to writing because I don't want to spend my life waiting." This theatre job came out of the blue, he says.

enough to play the gay cowboys

MARK SELIGER; UNIVERSAL STUDIOS/ALAMY; SHONA LOUISE





LOVE STORY **Gyllenhaal and Ledger, the original Brokeback duo**

Like Faist, Hedges pulled out of college early, in his case from a theatre degree at the University of North Carolina School of the Arts to play the bereaved 16-year-old looked after by his troubled uncle (Casey Affleck) in Kenneth Lonergan's 2016 film *Manchester by the Sea*. Faist, meanwhile, left Gahanna, Ohio, to go to the American

'It taps into what you need to do in order to be a man. That's why I chose to do it'

Musical and Dramatic Academy in New York for those two terms. He went on to make his professional debut back in Ohio in a dinner-theatre production of *White Christmas*, living on food stamps. He always saw the big picture. "I just figured I'd got what I could from conservatory," Faist says. "I just knew. In life you are given a certain amount of tools. And then at the end of the day it's on you. It's a made-up business: nobody really knows what they're doing. And so I got something from it, but then said, 'Now what?' And the answer, it turns out, is never sticking to the rulebook."

At which Hedges nods in vigorous assent. "The first time I started to think that I was a good actor was when I stopped playing by the rulebook," he says.

"Correct," Faist says.

But what is this rulebook you mustn't play by, anyway? "It means doing what people tell you to do, at every stage," Hedges says. On a film set, particularly, he adds, everyone has their view on how to do things, from the props department up. You can only really do the job once you take the plunge and do it your own way.

More than anything, Faist says, acting is a confidence game. "The most important thing that an actor can do is to fool themselves that they deserve to be there, that they are the expert. And if you can fool yourself, then it ends up being true."

Not only is Hedges's father in the business, his mother, Susan Bruce Titman, is a poet and actress. It wasn't automatically assumed that Hedges would go into the family trade — his brother is in finance — but it was what came naturally. "Acting was the path of least resistance for me. Movies were the coolest thing in the world to me, and acting was the only thing I was really interested in." Several times he suggests how lucky this makes him.

Faist was turned on to acting when he was three or four and saw *Singin' in the Rain* on television. "It was like a bolt of lightning." His mother was a lawyer; his father worked in insurance. "But they were very generous about saying, 'We have this weird kid who wants to do dance and acting classes and is bullheaded about it.'"

So it makes sense that Faist conveyed such an edgy dynamism in *West Side Story* and before that had American stage success in the musicals *Newsies* and *Dear Evan Hansen*. He has an unusually vivid sense of momentum. "I'm a naturally physical person. I just come at everything from an outside-in kind of perspective."

So how did this mutually supportive odd couple get ready for playing these revered roles? Not with huge amounts of physical prep, they say, but their first meeting was for a day's horse riding in New York. They laugh. "We went on a date," Faist says.

"It was very sweet, we had a blast," Hedges says.

"We knew we had to get to know each other, that we had to do this thing together eight times a week," Faist adds.

And talking of doing things together, it was one thing for Gyllenhaal and Ledger to have vigorous screen sex together. It is quite another for two actors to fake sex, even if only briefly, a few feet away from an audience. Stage sex, like stage violence, can be so hard to fake and so easily break the spell. So the show has a fight arranger and an intimacy co-ordinator.

"This show touches on a lot of buttons for men in general because it taps into insecurities," Faist says. "It taps into what you need to do in order to be a man. It brings up a lot of stuff. That's why I chose to do it. And we need to make the audience feel something and maybe feel uncomfortable too, and those people, and Jonathan our director too, they create a safe space for us to do that."

Both will be living alone here. Well, Faist has brought his "70lb" dog, while Hedges has brought "some incense and a candle". And while Hedges has been concentrating on his writing, Faist has been following up *West Side Story* with some high-profile work. Already filmed but not yet released are *Challengers*, directed by Luca Guadagnino (*Call Me by Your Name*), and also starring Zendaya and Josh O'Connor, and *The Bikeriders*, directed by Jeff Nichols (*Mud, Midnight Special*), in which he stars with Tom Hardy, Jodie Comer and Austin Butler. They look tremendous. He looks noncommittal. Not tremendous, then?

"I don't know," Faist says, matter-of-factly again. "I've not seen them yet."

He's learnt from experience not to confuse how enjoyable something is to work on with how well it works out.

"Once a film is done, that's it, you're done. And the thing that makes it worthwhile is the process. And I don't mean that in some pretentious way. It's more, like, I enjoy doing this. And this is not work. My family works. I know what work is. This isn't work. This is a gift. It's a challenge, but it's a joy."

How about the magical moment, though, when you see the finished film and it's better than you could have imagined? That's not how it works, they both say.

"Never," Hedges says. "It's always worse than you imagined. But it's also better than you feared. My dad has this thing: in life it's often better than you feared and worse than you hoped. Which I think is beautiful." He smiles, corrects himself, perhaps remembering that neither "worse than you hoped" nor "better than you feared" is a great tag line for a poster. "Sometimes it's just great, though."

Brokeback Mountain **is at @sohoplace, London W1, to August 12; sohoplace.org**

my culture fix

The dancer lets us into his cultural life

ALAMY; MANUEL HARLAN

Edward Watson



The book I'm reading

Becoming Ted by Matt Cain, a story about a man discovering his true self. Through a series of disasters, he finds himself contemplating his relationships, family and career, and reveals his drag queen alter ego. I love the sense of freedom in his discovery.

The book I wish I'd written

Bright, Precious Days, Brightness Falls and *The Good Life* by Jay McInerney. I picked up one book by chance, discovered the full trilogy, and was completely hooked on the backdrop of the 1980s, 1990s and 2000s. There is nothing better than realising there is more to come when you've found a book you love.



The book I couldn't finish

I've never left a book unfinished. I sometimes take breaks, but I'll always finish, even if it takes me longer than usual. I think it's good to stick things out and try to work out why I haven't enjoyed something.

The book I'm ashamed I haven't read

A Brief History of Time: From the Big Bang to Black Holes by Stephen Hawking. I know it's an important book to read and it's definitely on my to-read list, but I keep not getting round to it.

My favourite film

I am a big *Star Wars* fan, and vividly remember going to Bromley with my elder brother and twin sister and watching a double bill including *The Empire Strikes Back*. Even as an adult my love for *Star Wars* lives on. Perhaps it's just the nostalgia.



DARK FORCE The Empire Strikes Back. Left: Ke Huy Quan with his Oscar for Everything Everywhere All at Once

My favourite play

I have to say *The History Boys*. I'd love to see it again, but I imagine it would be hard to beat the original cast with great performances, great writing and great direction.

The box set I'm hooked on

It's not actually a box set, but the podcast *Dear Joan and Jericha* [Julia Davis and Vicki Pepperdine]. I'm not normally a podcast fan and struggle to concentrate on them — this is the only one I've become truly hooked on. I love how they make each other laugh, and find it completely infectious.





I'M YOUR MAN George Michael. Above right: Guys and Dolls at the Bridge Theatre

My favourite piece of music

Verklärte Nacht, or Transfigured Night. My first time dancing to this music was Kenneth MacMillan's *Different Drummer* in 2008. I only did three performances, but some of my strongest memories of dancing on stage are to that music. I think it may be one of my favourite roles.

The last show that made me cry

Ke Huy Quan [the American actor who starred in *The Goonies* and *Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom* as a child] at the Oscars. Watching someone have a moment after years of work and struggle [he won for his performance in *Everything Everywhere All at Once*], and just the belief to hang in there, it really moved me.

The instrument I played

The recorder, like most English schoolchildren.

The instrument I wish I'd learnt

The piano. As a dancer you are surrounded by music all day. We rehearse to the piano and our rehearsal pianists have this magical way of making you feel as though you are dancing to a full orchestra. What a skill to have. I am always blown away by how they manage to recreate the strength of a full orchestra with their singular instrument.



FLY HIGH The United Ukrainian Ballet at the London Coliseum

The place I feel happiest

London. I was born in London and have lived here my whole life. The Royal Ballet takes me around the world, and while I adore travelling and seeing different countries, I really do feel a sense of homecoming whenever I return to London. The only other place I could imagine living is New York, but fundamentally London has my heart.

My guiltiest cultural pleasure

Watching the Kardashians. Sorry, not sorry.

My favourite piece of music

Listen Without Prejudice Vol 1 by George Michael. I recently watched the Channel 4 documentary on George Michael and it led me to rediscover that album. It is the perfect listen.

The play I'm looking forward to booking

Guys and Dolls at the Bridge Theatre in London. I've heard so much about this new staging and I've never seen the show before, so why not start with a five-star hit?

Overrated

I don't think I could answer this. All art is subjective and while there may be some I don't enjoy, I know that they all have their own fans. I try to understand why I'm not enjoying something and see if I can at least understand why others have.

***Ed Watson: A Different Dance* is published by Prestel**

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Hugo Rifkind on TV



Racial revisionism has its pluses, but sexy eunuchs is a step too far

Queen Cleopatra
Netflix
Crime
ITVX
Mad Women
Channel 4

The debate around the race of Cleopatra is properly fascinating. The way, for example, the government of Egypt was cross enough to issue a statement complaining that she was to be played by a mixed-race woman in Netflix's *Queen Cleopatra*. Especially since it doesn't seem to have minded when she was formerly played by the Ashkenazi Israeli — of all things — Gal Gadot.

Likewise, it is fascinating how little we actually know about the real Cleopatra's ethnic heritage beyond some certainty that at least part of it was Macedonian. As it is to be told that applying modern-day racial classification to ancient Egypt is nonsensical anyway, even if that does feel a bit like the Inuit patronising us for not knowing the difference between types of snow. Honestly and truly. Zero snark intended. Fascinating. None of which makes up for the fact that the programme that has stirred all this controversy absolutely isn't.

We'll come back to that stuff in a minute. First, though, let us dwell on a sentence in the opening voiceover to *Queen Cleopatra*, as delivered by its executive producer Jada Pinkett Smith. Cleopatra, she tells us, "walked through the sandstorm of history and left footprints so deep that no man could ever erase them". Ponder that. Let it roll around your mind. She left footprints… in a sandstorm? That men have tried to scrub out, but could not? In sand?

Personally, it was only once I was a few minutes in that I even realised this was a documentary. Such had been the fuss about casting, I'd assumed it was a drama. Maybe it should have been. As it is, the best thing you can say about it is that, after all that fuss, it is not actually about whether Cleopatra was black at all, but rather about her being African, with it being part of a bigger series called *African Queens*.

Unfortunately, that position is swiftly undermined by the first historian we hear, Professor Shelley Haley, who recalls her grandmother saying: "I don't care what they tell you in school, Cleopatra was black." You wonder, though, if she really believes this, because in the short later section where race is explicitly discussed, even she seems unclear. "Cleopatra wants to be remembered as Egyptian," Haley says, in the weird present-tense voice this documentary adopts throughout, but "we don't know her exact heritage". As the British historian Dr Islam Issa says: "The appeal of Cleopatra… is that everyone can imagine her in their own way." Which I'm not sure is how history usually works.

Essentially, this is a project that has had a vast amount of money spent on it, and doesn't know why. The drama parts are sometimes good (Adele James, the lead, is very watchable) and sometimes bad (John Partridge is a hammy Caesar) and sometimes bizarre. For the latter, I offer you the bearded, brooding Michael Greco, fondly remembered as Beppe di Marco from *EastEnders*, as Pothinus the eunuch. Racial revisionism has its plus sides, but hairy, sexy eunuchs do seem to me to be a step too far. The modernisms of speech ("I'm not done," Cleopatra croaks, with London vocal fry) are a little weird, but at least everyone speaks with an English accent, as Americans all know the ancient Egyptians certainly did. As a pure drama, it would all have been absolutely no worse than plenty of other things. Albeit not good ones.

All of that, though, sits thoroughly incongruously amid the explanations punted forth from various historians about what is going on, which are dense and quite hard to follow, even if you have an A-level in ancient history and have read the right Asterix book. This makes everything tonally perplexing, as if half of the project has been dumbed down and the other half hasn't got the memo. Indeed, I sort of wondered if the experts had simply been shown the film once it was done and were asked to fit in the history accordingly.

In the middle, you've got Pinkett Smith cod-portentously intoning things like "What is a pharaoh? She is the sands and the skies and everything in between!" as if she were introducing a computer game. God knows why Netflix let her make this. Maybe they were just afraid to say "no" in case her husband gave them a slap.



NETFLIX

ROYAL SHAKE-UP
Adele James, centre, in Queen Cleopatra

At least they speak with an English accent, as Americans all know the ancient Egyptians certainly did

***Crime*, by contrast, I absolutely loved.** A detective drama, formerly on BritBox, it is unmistakably based on a novel of the same name by Irvine Welsh. The enjoyably minging viscera you'll find in most of Welsh's work has been cleaned up a bit, but really only a bit, which means that within the first five minutes we've seen a character complain about his haemorrhoids, then get impaled, arse first, on a bootscraper. Look, it's not *Poirot*.

Dougray Scott plays DI Ray Lennox, first seen as a minor character in *Filth*, an earlier Welsh novel that was made into a film starring James McAvoy. Lennox is an Edinburgh cop, good but fragile, having suffered a breakdown after a child abuse case. He has a moral hatred of abusers, as one should, but his borders on the obsessive, particularly due to a serial killer case he never managed to solve. He's also boorish and mansplainy, but self-aware enough to keep apologising for it to his new partner, Joanna Vanderham's DS Drummond.

Early on, a schoolgirl is snatched and her body is later found propped up on the monument atop Calton Hill. Perhaps you have to know the city well to fully appreciate it, but *Crime* does thrilling, beautiful things with its Edinburgh backdrop, one moment showing you a harled council house in front of Arthur's Seat's crags and the next a brawl on the New Town cobbles. It also taps more skilfully than most into Edinburgh's social divisions, showing the smugness of the city's large, privately educated professional elite (hello, friends), the resentful disdain that the working-class majority has for them and the ingrained ability of each tribe to pinpoint the social station of the other in a heartbeat.

It is true that kicking off a police drama with a murdered girl is hardly new ground, but there's something about Welsh's gleeful embrace of the horrid that makes *Crime* feel less exploitative than many more restrained dramas. At times, the twitching mental agonies of Lennox are overdone, but like all of Welsh's best work, this soars when it manages to be cartoonish and real all at once. Don't miss it. Also, don't fall over on to a bootscraper. Sheesh.

***Mad Women*, finally, was interesting, but** perhaps a bit too reverential to have a proper thesis. More or less, it was a look at how the world of British advertising has changed thanks to an influx of women since the 1980s. Before then, it reminded us, women in adverts were confined to the domestic sphere, or leered over, or both. Sometimes they would marvel at their soft hands thanks to Fairy liquid; sometimes they would do the Shake n' Vac and put the freshness back. Or they would just be wandering about being sexy and dumb for no particular reason at all.

If the makers here were hoping for a feminist polemic, though, that's not quite what they got. One early pioneer was Barbara Nokes, 80, who dreamt up the Levi's ad in which lots of beautiful women giggled over Nick Kamen taking off his jeans in a launderette. We also had Alex Taylor's mockery of Australian men in adverts for XXXX beer. Then came Rosie Arnold, who had the idea for that Pretty Polly stockings ad in which a beautiful woman in a beautiful car took hers off to fix the fan belt.

Arnold also gave us the "Lynx Effect", in which supermodels mobbed average men. Certainly these were all subverting stereotypes, and cleverly. I don't think you could say they were smashing them. Indeed, Arnold admitted she had arrived in advertising in an age when, if people called you a feminist, you would nervously dispute it.

Towards the end, we saw some younger women in advertising, including Kim Gehrig, who was behind Sport England's 2015 This Girl Can campaign in which normal women were unafraid to sweat, and the millennial Nadja Lossgott, who won awards for an online-only Libresse advert (it was banned from TV) that showed red menstrual blood instead of blue liquid.

It seems to me, though, that something vital shifted between the old and the new. While Nokes and Arnold were harnessing social change to sell stuff, much like Don Draper did with hippies and Coca-Cola, the new generation were more concerned with doing the opposite — using a medium developed to sell stuff as a means to bring about social change. This documentary charted the shift, with Gehrig putting it down to the Dove campaign, in which realish women wore their underwear, as an obvious pivot. It didn't, though, have the nerve to interrogate whether the first lot were overly mercenary or the new ones were perhaps taking themselves a tad too seriously in an industry that basically just exists to hustle for your cash.

Even less examined was the way that advertising as a business simply isn't what it was. I mean, do you even remember that Sport England campaign? Did you ever see it? Did I? No idea. And the period one? Search me, although I could still sing along to the 1990s "waaaah Bodyform!" one with gusto. These days you dodge the ads when you can. You could see the sly evidence of this departed golden age in the obvious wealth of the older women, sitting in their breathtaking homes. And if you will ever earn that sort of dollar for the things we all now watch four seconds of, before irritably clicking "Skip Ads" to make them go away, well, I would be surprised.

visual art

The man who turned his house into an artwork

Jim Ede saw art in everything, even his home. Fifty years on, Laura Freeman finds Kettle's Yard as wonderful as he left it

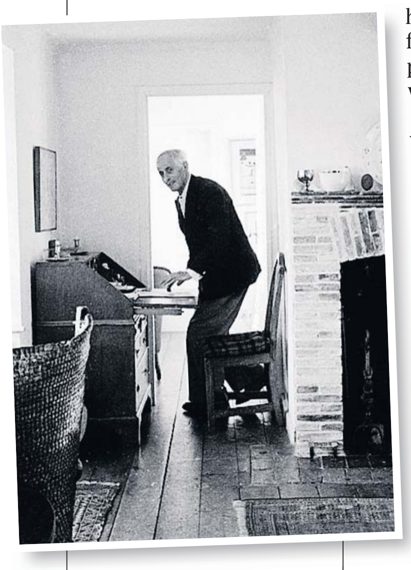




HOME WORK **Kettle's Yard in Cambridge. Right: Barbara Hepworth with her sculpture Mother and Child. Below: Jim Ede at Kettle's Yard**

Jim Ede is the missing man of British modernism. Where he appears in the lives of others it is as a cameo, a biographical bit-part player. Pick up a life of the sculptor Henri Gaudier-Brzeska or the artists Ben Nicholson, Christopher Wood, David Jones, Barbara Hepworth or Alfred Wallis, and Ede will make a flying appearance. Some reference will be made to Kettle's Yard, the house and collection that Ede built in Cambridge. He filled the rooms with pictures, sculptures, prints, drawings, flints, feathers, seedheads, ferns, cacti, shells and, famously, pebbles. "The Louvre of the pebble," one wag called it.

Each year 100,000 people ring the cork float on a rope that has served as a doorbell since Ede bought the four former slum cottages that make up Kettle's Yard in 1956. He left the house to Cambridge University when he retired in 1973 (he died in 1990 at the age of 95), yet Kettle's Yard is just as he left it. Not a pebble out of place. You can sit on the benches, which have been worn to a shine by generations of undergraduate bottoms, and at the table where Ede would give his teas (singed toast, fridge-cold marmalade and tea in a silver pot). You can pop into his bathroom where an Alfred Wallis sits atop the lavatory. Students can write their dissertations at the shared desk upstairs, thumb through Ede's books and even, if they get there early enough on the appointed day at the start of term, riffle through his collection and borrow a sketch for their digs.



Visitors see the house and think: this is how I want to live. They resolve to pin back their curtains, chuck out their clutter, and make their house a home for prints, posters, beach gleanings, mud larkings and what Ede called "stray objects" — natural curiosities, flotsam, jetsam, driftwood, rusty bits of this or that. They might attempt their own spiral of perfectly spherical pebbles.

We know the bed Ede slept in — it's narrow and rather monastic. His wife, Helen, had her own twin in the bedroom above, connected to Ede's by a speaking tube hidden in the wall. We know what plates they ate from: blue and pink Copeland, much cracked and glued. We know of his handsome set of hairbrushes, his fondness for penny plants and his passion for seafaring paintings. But we don't really know him.

I first stood on the doorstep of Kettle's Yard in freshers week 2007. I was a hopeless fresher, miserably homesick. I spent a lot of time on the phone to my mum. Towards the end of that first week the other art historian in my year, Hermione, who had grown up in nearby Newmarket, offered to take me to Kettle's Yard, which was up the hill from our college, Magdalene, and open for two hours each afternoon. She wouldn't tell me much about it. She said: "Just wait."

Like so many visitors before and since, I fell in love with Kettle's Yard that day; with the light, the sense of space in even the smallest rooms, the happy marriage of modern art, heirlooms and flea market trifles, the way the arch of Gaudier-Brzeska's *Bird Swallowing a Fish* echoes the curl of a feather, the rainbow prisms created by crystal goblets and old glass fishing buoys, the watercolours by David Jones and the five brass and jade rings cut by the artist Richard Pousette-Dart. (There used to be more, but these polished pocket sculptures have proved all too pocketable over the years.)

Kettle's Yard has shown generations of visitors how to live in modern rooms and with modern art — no fuss, no muss, no fustiness or chintz — yet still to have space for precious things. Not expensive things. Ede was proud to be a bargain hunter. He would boast about buying this for a shilling

It's a happy marriage of modern art, heirlooms and flea market trifles

or that for just a few pence. At Kettle's Yard, chipped teacups sit happily with bowls by Lucie Rie. We might not all stretch to a Henry Moore or a Barbara Hepworth, but, walking along the shingle, we might strike lucky with a stone that is more Moore than Moore himself.

I didn't expect on that first October afternoon to wind up writing Ede's biography. Funny how things come round in spirals. When I visited Kettle's Yard again in 2018, no longer a homesick student but an arts journalist in my thirties, to report on the opening of the Kettle's Yard extension, it surprised me that there was no biography of Ede. The house has had a huge and enduring influence, but who was the man behind the (block-printed) curtains? A few months after filing my review, I emailed Andrew Nairne, the director of Kettle's Yard, to ask: was anyone writing a life of Ede, and if not, could I?

It turned into a biography not just of Ede, but of the artists who changed the way he saw the world and whose works hang everywhere at Kettle's Yard, from skirting boards to attic slopes: Ben and Winifred Nicholson, Wood, Jones, Wallis, Gaudier-Brzeska, Hepworth and Moore. Together they represent a thrilling tipping-point moment in British modernism. They, like Ede, were born Victorians and would forge a new vision of how the world might be painted, sculpted and seen. New art, new rooms. No more mahogany, no more ottomans, no more antimacassars. The Kettle's Yard artists aren't a set as the Bloomsbury Set were, but their lives and influences are intertwined as surely as the cords on the Kettle's Yard bell.

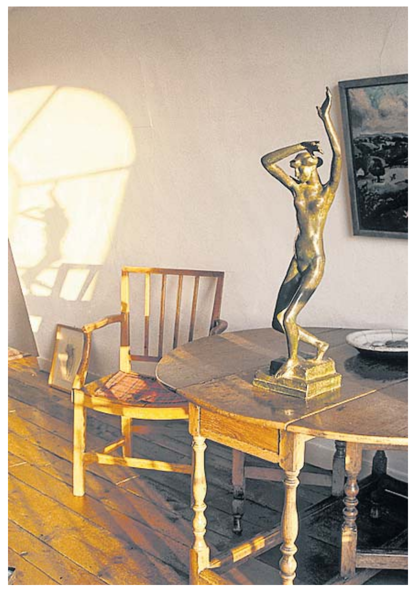
Ede was in his sixties when he came to

FOX PHOTOS/GETTY IMAGES; KETTLE'S YARD, UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE









Kettle's Yard. Those who met him when he opened the door to tours and tea met a man with silver hair beneath his beret. (The beret was part fashion, part necessity. Ede, who poured his money into art, was mean about the heating. I interviewed any number of Kettle's Yard familiars of the 1950s and 1960s who remembered wearing coats indoors.) But he was young once.

In the 1920s and 1930s, when Ede was a junior curator at the Tate, he had lived in a Queen Anne house at 1 Elm Row in bohemian Hampstead. Ede made it a meeting place for artists.

On Sunday afternoons Ede and his wife kept open house. He invited lords and their ladies, cabinet ministers and coal miners, Marxists and millionairesses. Artists turned up with works, as Ede put it, still "hot from the making". They crammed into the great first-floor room and Helen would feed everyone ginger wine, macaroni cheese and stewed apple. (Jim once overheard a poet at a cocktail do warn his friends: "If you are going up to dine with the Edes you had better tuck in now, for they only give you two berries on a plate.")

Stanley Spencer on the sofa. Vanessa Bell and Duncan Grant by the fire. Moore and Hepworth at the round table arguing about who first put a hole into sculpture. On fine days they would spill out on to the lawn. Jones sketched the garden from an upstairs window, not forgetting to include the Gaudier-Brzeska sculpture that Ede was using for a bird bath.

The rules were strict: supper early and over by 8.30pm. At 10pm stragglers would be shooed off home. Jones, invariably with one of his head-colds, would be allowed to stay the night. Together, he and Ede would unwrap the parcels of paintings that Wallis, the ancient mariner and painter, used to send from St Ives.

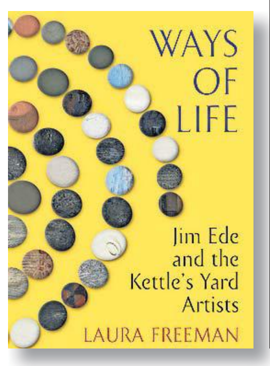
Ben Nicholson would turn up with canvases under his arm. He could hardly give them away at the time. His wife, Winifred, was far more successful. Ede would buy Ben's work for not much more than the cost of the frame. In the early 1930s, after he had left Winifred (and her £500 per annum) for Hepworth (and her zero pounds per annum), the couple found themselves bowed down by bills. Ede bailed them out. Ben wrote that Ede's £22 seemed more like £222 "& gives us liberty to work".

Liberty, that was the ticket. Ede knew that while it was nice to think that art was free as air and sky, cash, cold and hard, mattered. Starving in a garret might have been romantic, but no man could create with the bailiff knocking at the door. Although not rich, he wrote a cheque whenever he could. "Och," Helen used to chide him in her soft Scots accent. "Remember you have two daughters of your own."

Ede gave more than material gifts. As a collector, as a self-professed "friend to artists", he gave his time, his attention, his interest and his eye. Whether an artist was a Picasso or a student just out of sixth form, he treated each just the same. Art wasn't for galleries alone and it certainly wasn't for the rich. He found beauty in the smallest details: light through a leaf, a limpet washed clean by the tide, a silver spoon buffed to brightness. Such treasures are there for our taking. Learning to look, to truly see, was a whole way of life.

I interviewed more than 80 people who knew Ede and Kettle's Yard. The words of one in particular have stuck. Peter Trewin went up to read history at Emmanuel College, Cambridge, in 1965. He was later my father-in-law's best man and he told me this: "When you think about what things you do remember after 50 years, Kettle's Yard must have been a very special place to have stayed with me. I remember the welcome Jim gave to someone like me, from

INTERIOR DECOR Top: Lourdes by David Jones, 1928. Above: Cyclamen and Primula by Winifred Nicholson, c 1923. Above right: Dancer by Henri Gaudier-Brzeska, 1913



the north, who had no education in art, whose mind was not really attuned to art or modern art. It didn't seem to matter that I was totally ignorant.

"I guess I was surprised that someone like him would spend the time with someone like me. Latterly, one's experience of the artistic world is that they don't want you to understand. There was none of that with Jim. Just warmth."

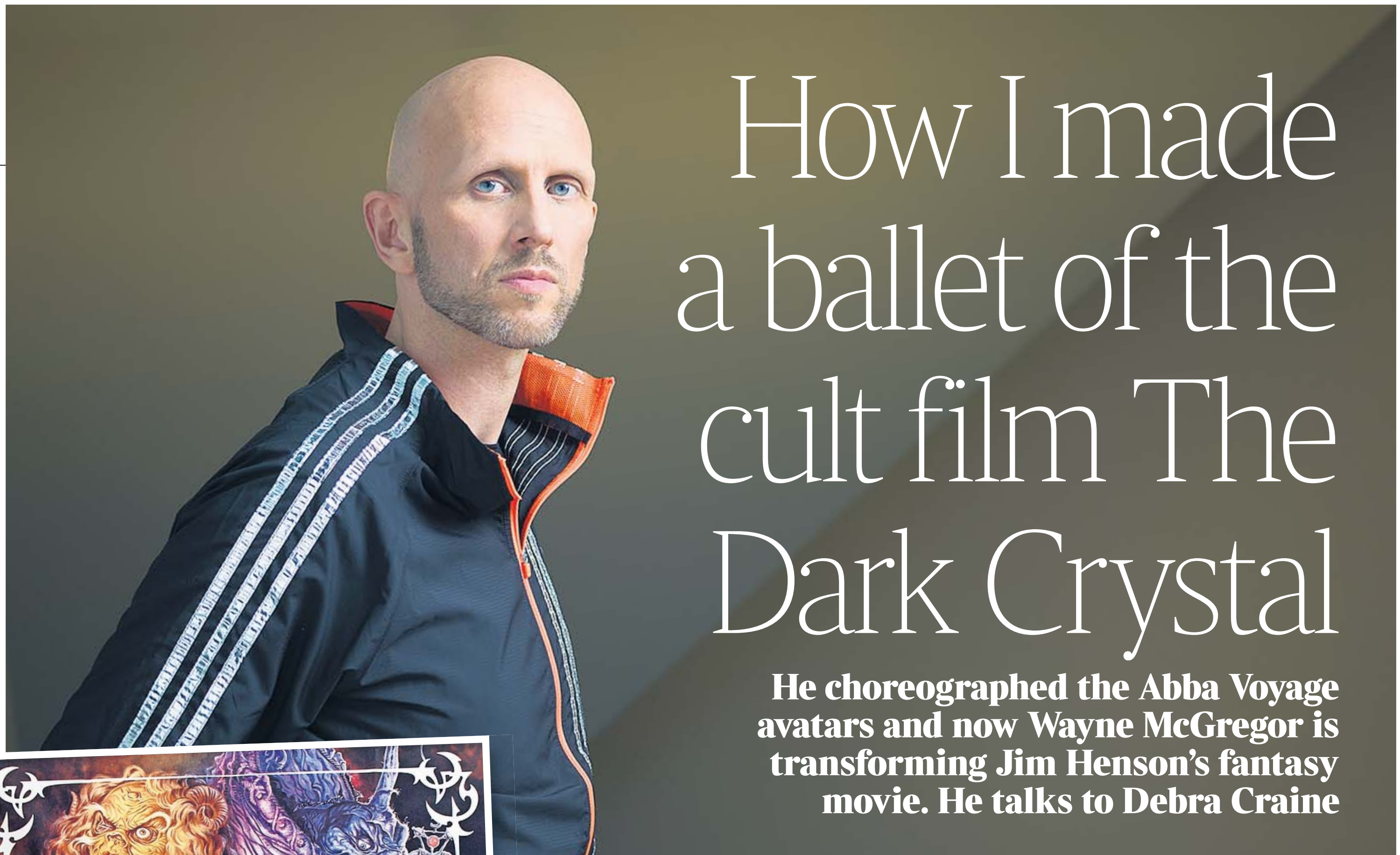
Warmth and welcome. Ede was a wonderful talker and he never talked down. There are no labels at Kettle's Yard, no jargon, no off-putting captions, no prohibitive pine cones on chairs. Art for all.

Beauty too. To live in light and beautiful rooms wasn't an indulgence or a privilege of riches. It was a right. Anyone might make a gallery of pebbles, posters, shells and pictures by grandchildren. Above all, Ede extended friendship to all who stepped into his tiny entrance hall and stood at the foot of the spiral staircase. Kettle's Yard is a portrait of Ede, told through rooms, art and objects. But it is a testament, too, to friendship, to the artists who showed him not just how to see, but how to live.

***Ways of Life: Jim Ede and the Kettle's Yard Artists* by Laura Freeman is published by Jonathan Cape on May 18**

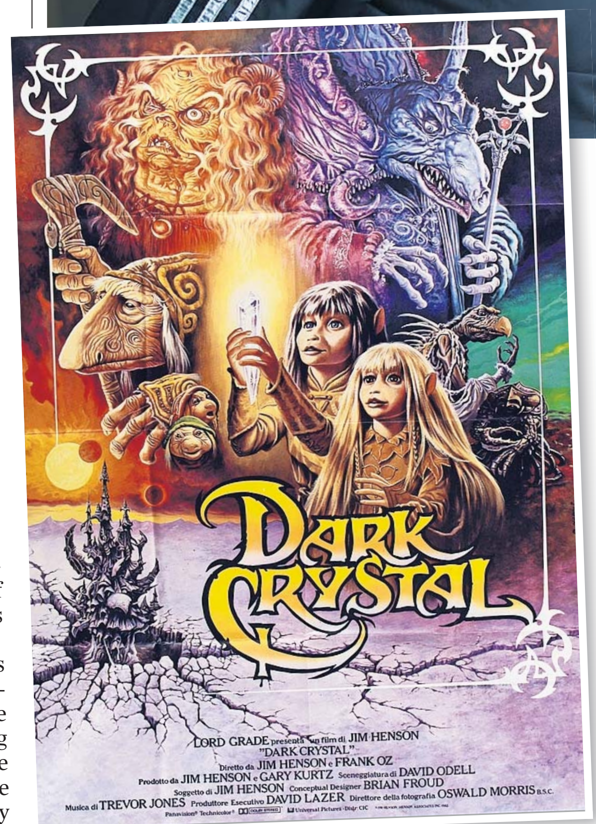
PAL HANSEN; GLASSHOUSE IMAGES/SHUTTERSTOCK; ALAMY

dance



How I made a ballet of the cult film The Dark Crystal

He choreographed the Abba Voyage avatars and now Wayne McGregor is transforming Jim Henson's fantasy movie. He talks to Debra Craine





CRYSTAL MYTH Wayne McGregor, top, and Jim Henson's 1982 film

It's impossible to predict where Wayne McGregor's imagination will go next. The British choreographer is one of the world's most successful creative artists, but he's also one of the most restless, always ready to take a leap into the unknown.

It's why he agreed to choreograph *Abba Voyage*, the pioneering virtual reality sensation that has brought back to life 1970s Abba as avatars. It's why the publishing house Bloomsbury has commissioned him to write a book offering "a new paradigm for understanding physical movement". And it's why Google chose to work with him when it wanted to develop a viable link between physicality and robotics.

Speaking to McGregor is like attending a tutorial in science and philosophy; sometimes it's hard to keep up. But get him talking about his latest project, a 70-minute dance adaptation of the 1982 fantasy film *The Dark Crystal*, and it all falls into place. *UniVerse: A Dark Crystal Odyssey*, performed by the nine dancers of Company Wayne McGregor, reimagines Jim Henson's animatronic puppet movie, an epic tale about the quest to overthrow evil and restore balance to a divided world by piecing together a powerful broken crystal. It opens today at the Linbury, the basement theatre at the Royal Opera House in Covent Garden, where it will run for three weeks.

A week before opening night, I travel to east London to Studio Wayne McGregor, the choreographer's purpose-built headquarters in Queen Elizabeth Olympic Park. It's impressive, with three dance studios (two especially huge) and lots of pristine space "for developing creative practice and collaboration across arts, science, technology and research" — not only for McGregor's contemporary dance work, but for the hundreds of young artists who are offered free spaces in which to rehearse and create.

The 53-year-old choreographer is equally impressive. Tall, wiry and practically vibrating with energy, he is the embodiment of a relentlessly inquiring mind. That curiosity has kept him at the cutting edge of dance ever since he started experimenting with his own body in memorable performances at The Place in north London in the early 1990s. "I'm like water: I really like to move and shift between things," he says. "I don't like routine or fixity and I'm very good with change and seeking opportunity."

His latest opportunity takes him back to his childhood. He was 12 when Henson's film was released, but remembers how it made him feel. "It was one of the first films where I was engaged by this weird, surreal, unusual out-of-kilter world with a very visceral physicality," McGregor says. "It's quite an incredible film, which is told visually with voiceover. In a way, it has the feeling of dance."

Don't expect his production to have any kind of literal cinematic storytelling. "I'm not really interested in storytelling as a form," he says. "One of the great things about dance is its slippery ambiguity. So there is a shadow of the original here, but we take it somewhere else. It's not like *The Dark Crystal* on stage with the puppets. It's more of an impressionistic look back and forward at the film, filtered through the lens of today."

Stories about the triumph of good over evil are a dime a dozen, but what resonates most about the film, 40 years on, is its strong ecological message. "At its heart, the fundamental truth about the film is that the world is divided and a hero figure wants to put it back together again. It feels like an interesting parallel to me, an interesting analogy in relation to where we are today with the climate crisis."

For *UniVerse* he's working with the original Henson collaborators Brian and Wendy Froud, the composer Joel Cadbury, the digital designers kontrastmoment, the lighting designer Lucy Carter, the dramaturg Uzma Hameed, the costume designer Philip Delamore and "the face and body artist" Alex Box. One thing is for certain in their universe: the Linbury stage won't look like a normal stage.

"Part of my job is to experiment," McGregor says. "It's important to push yourself into unfamiliar territory. I've chosen some incredible collaborators over the years who see that I'm interested in taking a risk and are prepared to go on that journey with me."

Meanwhile, he's taking another journey: upstairs at the Royal Opera House, where the Royal Ballet is rehearsing his new piece to be unveiled as part of a triple bill on June 9. McGregor has been the resident choreographer there for the past 17 years, which has allowed him to build an international career as a ballet choreographer, something that seemed inconceivable to those of us who saw his earliest incarnation as an eccentric contemporary dancer.

'I was engaged by this weird, surreal, unusual out-of-kilter world with a very visceral physicality'

The new piece, still untitled as I write, has music by the Icelandic composer Anna Thorvaldsdottir, costume design by the Burberry chief creative officer Daniel Lee, and set design by the Cuban-American artist Carmen Herrera, who died last year at the age of 106. McGregor says Herrera's art and its "sense of evanescence" provided the starting point for the whole piece.

This is proving to be quite a year for the choreographer from Stockport, who is also celebrating the 30th anniversary of Company Wayne McGregor. In March the Royal Ballet revived his *Woolf Works* — a big success with audiences — and in November, the company is bringing back his *The Dante Project*, with a commissioned score from Thomas Adès and designs by Tacita Dean. *Abba Voyage* — "the world's greatest example of immersive, virtual reality technology, where you believe there is a real body in front of you" — looks set to run for years.

Next year isn't looking bad either. Bloomsbury will publish his book about physical intelligence, and in the autumn Covent Garden will present the UK premiere of *MaddAddam*, the adaptation of a Margaret Atwood trilogy that McGregor made last year for the National Ballet of Canada. Elsewhere, he's the director of the Venice Biennale festival of contemporary dance this July. "It's about me choosing my favourite artists and commissioning them to create work," he says. Then there's his back catalogue of ballets, in high demand throughout the world. In charge of restaging these is Antoine Vereecken, McGregor's partner of almost 20 years. They own a historic Bauhaus property in Devon and when they are in London live in Shoreditch, not far from McGregor's east London HQ.

But it's the way that new technology could transform the landscape of dance — the delivery of it, in virtual reality, and the creation of it — that is uppermost in my mind. For the past five years he has been working with Google on building an artificial intelligence that creates physical vocabularies. "I'm interested in seeing how you can build a relationship with AI in choreography," he says.

"Using my extensive dance archive, AI can learn a library of physical movement and offer you 50,000 permutations of what you can do next in generating movement. Would you know if something was made in AI if we didn't tell you? It's an interesting ethical question."

***UniVerse: A Dark Crystal Odyssey* is at the Linbury Theatre, Royal Opera House (roh.org.uk), to June 4**


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books

Tsar Putin's bloody dream: an empire to rule them all







Book of the week

Russia's invasion of Ukraine is fuelled by centuries-old imperial fantasy and twisted history, says David Patrikarakos



The Russo-Ukrainian War
by Serhii Plokhy

Allen Lane, 400pp; £25

This year I spent some time in the ruined city centre of Bakhmut, just a few hundred metres from the Russian army, listening to artillery go off all around me while I darted between burnt-out vehicles and shell craters trying to find a place to tweet. It struck me then that this was the past 12 months of the war in miniature: the return of 20th-century industrial conflict to 21st-century Europe — brutality and atavism in equal measure.

How we got here is the question that Serhii Plokhy, a professor of Ukrainian history at Harvard University, tries to answer in his important and magisterial book *The Russo-Ukrainian War*. He finds the answer, perhaps unsurprisingly, in a *longue durée* approach to things. As he tells us, wryly rephrasing Churchill: "Historians are the worst interpreters of current events except everyone else."

The book opens with Plokhy in Vienna at the start of Russia's all-out invasion of Ukraine on February 24, 2022. He could scarcely believe it. In the preceding weeks he watched Russian troops massing on the border and concluded it was a ploy. "I believed that the troop movement was part of Russian blackmail," he writes. "My colleague argued that it could be for real."

It was an egregious error, but one made by so many who had spent years reporting on and analysing Russia — including me — and we made it because, quite simply, Putin's invasion made no sense, militarily or politically. It still doesn't. But, mea culpa, I now understand that, equally simply, we underestimated the ability of madness and hubris to move history.

Or perhaps more correctly, we didn't fully internalise the lessons of that history, and the madness and hubris that it created in the Kremlin. And this is what Plokhy does so magnificently. He sees "the roots of the current war … in the history of imperial collapse in the 19th and 20th centuries, which also produced the key ideas that have fuelled the current conflict".

But if the conflict is several centuries old, its origins stretch back over a millennium. Most Russians believe their nation originated in "Kyivan Rus", the polity that emerged in the 10th century that encompasses Kyiv and a good part of what is now Ukraine, Belarus and Russia. It is here that Russians find the origins of their "religion, written language, literature, arts, law code and — extremely important in the premodern era — their ruling dynasty".

At a primordial level, then, Ukraine is fundamental not only to Russian imperialism, but to Russia's sense of itself. It didn't matter that travellers from Moscow and St Petersburg found that the locals in Kyiv and the surrounding areas spoke a different language, sang different songs and had a distinct culture. The myth of Russia's Kyivan origins, Plokhy tells us, had by the 15th century "already embedded itself in the consciousness of the Russian elites".

This myth would drive the violence of tsar after tsar against Ukrainians, who fought back as best they could, often with some successes before the inevitable defeat to a much larger enemy. Even when imperial myth was abandoned (at least superficially) in favour of communism Ukraine remained existential, to help to maintain Slavic dominance of a new empire: a Soviet Union filled with Moldovans, Kazakhs and Georgians.

Plokhy argues convincingly that slow disintegration of the Soviet Union finally became irreversible on December 1, 1991, when the citizens of Ukraine (the Union's second-largest state after Russia) went to the polls. From a turnout of more than 84 per cent, 92 per cent voted for independence. Mikhail Gorbachev had argued for an all-Union referendum on the USSR's fate, but with Ukraine now out, he simply accepted that result as a verdict on the wider question.

If there were to be any more imperial dreams, Ukraine would need to be retaken. As the former US diplomat Zbigniew Brzezinski once remarked: "Without Ukraine, Russia ceases to be an empire, but with Ukraine suborned and then subordinated, Russia automatically becomes an empire." For a time, Russia was too chaotic or too distracted to think about empire. Then came Vladimir Putin.

We are watching a modern-day tsar surrounded by a herd of terrified lickspittles

The televised security council briefing Putin gave in February 2022, just before his all-out invasion, made two things clear: first, that we are watching a modern-day tsar surrounded by a herd of lickspittles too terrified to openly contradict him (although their body language is garrulous); second, that we are watching a man who does not even accept the principle of Ukraine as a separate entity to Russia.

When Plokhy moves from history to an analysis of the present war — which began when Russian troops invaded Crimea on February 20, 2014 — he makes clear the full meaning of the book's title. "The Russo-Ukrainian War" of course refers to the present day, but also to something else. A simple and near-perennial historical dialectic: on the one hand, a Russia pathologically driven by imperial mission; on the other, a Ukraine determined to carve out independence. This is why talk of Nato expansion and so on as a cause of the war is all hokum, and why the service Plokhy performs in forensically laying out the reality is so valuable.

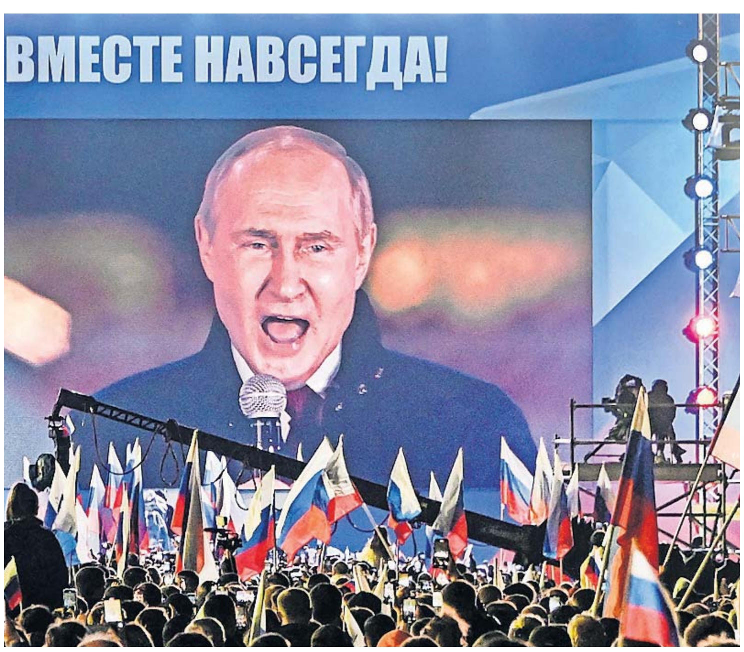
All nationalisms are built on the fetishisation of history. Putin's, though, is the fetishisation of a warped history, fuelled by myth and born from a personal monomania that swelled throughout the Covid lockdown, large parts of which he spent self-isolating and reading propagandist works on Ukraine that masqueraded as fact. History has become the nightmare from which Putin cannot awake.

On the front lines and in the ruined cities you see the cost of this madness everywhere. You see it in the eyes of people in the formerly occupied territories who have had family members deported to Russia. You hear it in the voices of those who saw children disappeared, and those who were forced to dig the graves that their fellow citizens were dumped into.

Bakhmut once had a population of more than 70,000. I saw no life there beyond the

LIBKOS/AP; ALEXANDER NEMENOV/AFP/GETTY IMAGES





handfuls of civilians who refuse to leave because they have nowhere else to go and the Ukrainian special forces I was travelling with. Surrounding us all were thousands of Russians trying to kill anything left living, in the service of a tsar's delusion.

Moving around the city, it was sometimes hard to see properly amid the shattered glass and smoke that billowed from entire blocks of ruined buildings. But my understanding was clear enough. The fight here is, in the end, a simple one. Empire versus nation; the lies of the past versus the realities of the present; madness versus a simple desire to live free and in peace.

Plokhy is a historian and he brilliantly outlines the dangers of perverse history; as a correspondent, I try my best to illustrate its most immediate effects. On the page, you laugh at historical absurdity; on the ground, you count its cost in bodies.

David Patrikarakos is the author of *War in 140 Characters: How Social Media Is Reshaping Conflict in the Twenty-First Century* (Basic, £25)

WARPED HISTORY Top: Ukrainian soldiers fire at Russian positions in Bakhmut. Above: Putin addresses a rally at Red Square, September 2022. Left: Bakhmut after an attack in December 2022

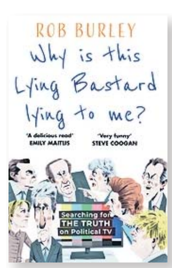
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Brian Walden and Margaret Thatcher on Weekend World in 1984

How to give politicians a grilling

Will returning to Walden-style TV interviews restore trust in politicians, asks Matt Chorley



Why Is This Lying Bastard Lying to Me?
Searching for the Truth on Political TV
by Rob Burley

Mudlark, 432pp; £16.99

Rob Burley was for many years the man responsible for the live music at the end of *The Andrew Marr Show*, but don't hold that against him. Apart from orchestrating the awkwardness of cabinet ministers nodding along to the oboe-botherer of the week, he has had a ringside seat for some of the biggest political interviews for more than a quarter of a century.

As well as editing *The Andrew Marr Show*, he has worked with Jeremy Paxman, Andrew Neil, Jonathan Dimbleby, Kirsty Wark, Emily Maitlis and Evan Davis. His book — which takes its title from Paxman's declared approach to interviews — is part-memoir, part-manifesto, part-history of the political interview. The last is by far the most successful and enjoyable.

His love of political interviews was born while watching Brian Walden on *Weekend World* in the 1980s. For many in the industry, Walden was the master of the form. His interview prep was meticulous to the point of absurdity. Scripts consisted of a complex decision tree predicting every possible answer to each question. He was at times curt, stretching to abrasive, and interviewees had to be just as prepared.

Walden did, though, have a soft spot for one interviewee. A one-time Labour MP, he wrote gushing columns about Margaret Thatcher for The Sunday Times. Over the years he sat down with her more than any other inquisitor. Then, as Burley recalls, in October 1989 a long-planned interview came days after the resignation as chancellor of Nigel Lawson, who quit after clashing with the prime minister's economics adviser Alan Walters. She still kept the appointment with her old friend. He went for the jugular, pointing out that her insistence that she did not know why Lawson had gone was literally incredible, and repeating the view of her backbenchers that she was "off her trolley". She was gone the next year. They never spoke again.

Their split is even more remarkable given the best nugget from Burley's detailed research. In 1983 Walden had interviewed Thatcher towards the end of the general election campaign, then that night cut short a drinking session with his *Weekend World* colleagues to help her to rewrite the Tories' last party political broadcast before polling day. As Burley writes, it was a "mind-boggling" conflict of interest.

The peeks behind the camera make this book rollick along. Paddy Ashdown rubbishing young Burley's research live on air, then shamelessly regaling the green room: "You were right, of course… but I had to say something to get me out of a hole." Paxman baffled at having to interview Russell Brand. Marr accidentally pouring a two-pint jug of cold milk over Theresa May's £4,000 silk suit at his programme's after-show breakfast. The arrival at *Newsnight* of pointy-headed Evan Davis: "There is book clever and there's TV clever… it was as if he was allergic to good television."

Andrew Marr once poured a jug of milk over Theresa May's £4,000 silk suit

It also comes with the robust, matey language of the newsroom. Gordon Brown addressed "the pissed-off press". New Labour frontbenchers would "wang on at length". Boris Johnson "hurls rhetorical crap and blustering bullshit". Johnson's spin doctor Rob Oxley is a "suited gorilla". Tories have created "new categories of bullshitting". Eric Pickles had to be beaten off "with a shitty stick", so keen was he to get on the telly. John Nott, the defence secretary during the Falklands conflict, walked out of an interview because he had "no more f***s to give". The last prime minister was a "Trussterf***".

Sometimes it can get a bit involved. There is a lot about the row over the Andrew Neil interviews in the 2019 election campaign, in which all the party leaders took part, except Johnson. Team Corbyn are still aggrieved. The casual reader might ask if Johnson only won the election because he did not face Neil for 30 minutes. I'm inclined to think not.

There is a lot of punchy, sometimes sweary anger in this book, much of it aimed at Johnson. Those who loathe the man who hid in a fridge will love it. That he broke political norms in his relationships with broadcasters and the truth is beyond dispute. That he is alone in doing that is debatable.

In March last year, with Johnson still in No 10, the Office for National Statistics found that only 35 per cent of the public said they trusted the government. It's just not clear that a return to the long-form political interview, as Burley suggests, is the solution. Is low public trust the result of a nation turning to Netflix or Disney+ because Grant Shapps isn't on TV enough?

The title of the book might lead you to believe that we are governed by a bunch of Pinocchios. However, Burley concedes that few politicians come out with "barefaced lies", instead relying on evasion, dissembling, distraction or obfuscation. All of these are frustrating for an interviewer, and viewers and listeners, but they are not lying.

Burley is now in charge of *Beth Rigby Interviews* on Sky News. "The show's purpose is simple: a return to the long-form interview." It is a tall order. Politicians don't want to do it. At least not the ones you might want to hear from. Viewers don't want to watch it. Or at least not enough to make a dent in those dire public trust measures.

"We need to renew political television and the political interview," Burley argues. I think he's half right. Political television almost certainly needs renewing beyond the shouty *Question Time* formula and the talking heads of rolling news.

As the host of Times Radio's mid-morning show, I would be immodest to note that it is possible to do three hours of politics without the boring bits on the radio without actually speaking to many politicians. If any. They get in the way of the job of journalism in explaining, fact-checking and entertaining.

There is some good news, though, and it shows that Burley is right. Long-form, discursive, non-confrontational political interviews that combine policy and personalities do have a future. It's just that they exist not on TV, but on podcasts. Matt Forde's *The Political Party*, Nick Robinson's *Political Thinking*, Alice Thomson and Rachel Sylvester's *Past Imperfect*: they all show that time and space to explore mood and motivation is a far more satisfying experience regardless of whether the bastards are ultimately telling the truth.

books



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Will you lose your job in the AI revolution?

Two distinguished economists issue a warning about the dangers of digital disruption. Review by Emma Duncan

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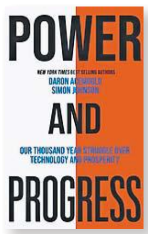
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Power and Progress
Our Thousand Year Struggle over Technology and Prosperity
by Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson

Basic, 560pp; £25

In 1191 Herbert the Dean, an entrepreneurial type, invested in an exciting new technology that was taking Suffolk by storm — a windmill. The Abbot of Bury St Edmunds was furious on the grounds that it would compete with his monastery's mills. Faced with the threat of being taken to an ecclesiastical court, which would inevitably rule in the abbot's favour, Herbert pulled down his mill, and the locals were doomed to pay the inflated prices that the monopolistic monastery would charge.

According to Daron Acemoglu and Simon Johnson, professors at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the church's control over the economy in the Middle Ages explains why increases in agricultural productivity did little to improve living standards. All of the proceeds went into fattening the monks and building fantastic cathedrals. And just as in those days the priests rather than the peasants benefited from the advent of the mills, so today the plutocrats rather than the people are benefiting from the digital revolution.

There's a widespread belief that humanity is a rabbit caught in the headlights of whatever technological juggernaut is coming our way. It is not, the authors insist. We have agency. As Herbert's story shows, the social and political consequences of technological advances are shaped by rules and institutions. That's just as true today as it was in the Middle Ages. And they argue that now, more than ever, we need to recognise this because the disruption that we have seen so far is nothing compared with what AI will cause.

Power and Progress addresses an issue of huge public concern. Technology has brought great benefits to humanity by raising it out of the dire poverty in which most people lived from the beginning of time until 500 years ago, but there are worries about its downsides. As economists, Acemoglu and Johnson are interested not in whether the next wave of innovation will enslave humanity — that's for the geeks to argue about — but whether it will threaten social stability by increasing inequality and undermining democracy.

Over time, the distribution of the gains from increased productivity has shifted. In the first half of the 19th century, pretty much all of the spoils from the Industrial Revolution went to factory owners rather than workers; in the second half, labour did better than capital. In the 20th century, boom time for workers came after the Second World War. That reversed in the 1980s since when capital and high earners have hoovered up the proceeds of the digital revolution while moderate and low earners have had a thin time of it.

These variations were, the authors argue, the consequence of political choices. In the late 19th century, democracy, education and the growth of labour unions shifted the dial towards labour. In the late 20th century, the dial shifted back in America and Britain because Reagan and Thatcher deregulated the economy and crushed the unions; on the European mainland, labour kept a larger slice of the spoils. Now AI is thundering towards us, threatening to devalue workers and shovel productivity gains towards the rich.

We have a choice, the book argues, between AI, which replaces humans, and "machine usefulness", which complements them. The first will replace workers and thus benefit only the capitalists; the second will increase workers' productivity, enabling them to share in the proceeds. The present trajectory, directed by corporations that focus on maximising profits rather than benefiting society, is towards the former. Society, the authors maintain, needs to shift the path towards the latter.

> **AI is threatening to devalue workers and shovel productivity gains towards the rich**

There are two problems with this argument. First, the authors' analysis of the origin of the problem is unconvincing. AI, widely in use already, complements some workers and replaces others. The voice-recognition software with which I have been taking notes from this book, writes what it hears, then for a split-second rethinks on the basis of context. That makes it about as good as the secretaries of the past. Voice-recognition software is thus one of a raft of technologies that have replaced some professionals and complemented the skills of others.

That's happening wherever you look: when AI puts legal researchers out of work by reviewing past cases, it complements lawyers' skills; when AI puts radiologists out of work by accurately analysing images, it complements doctors' skills. So there is no way to identify the "worker-friendly" technologies that the authors argue the government should promote.

Second, it's not obvious that AI will exacerbate inequality. It will certainly destroy some jobs; but probably, as with other big technological changes, it will create some others. The sum total of technological change, over the long run, has been greater prosperity and full employment.

It's true that the split in the proceeds of economic growth between labour and capital shifted towards the latter during the 1980s, but that happened during — and because of — Thatcher's time in power, which predated most of the digital revolution. Since then, neither unemployment nor inequality have grown.

A bigger concern is technology's impact on democracy. Social media makes money by encouraging people to engage with each other's posts. Since extreme, emotive content promotes engagement, those are the messages that social media companies amplify. The firms are therefore implicated in the dissemination of lies, the growth of political polarisation and the widespread belief in America that the 2020 election was stolen from Donald Trump.

It would certainly be possible, as the authors suggest, to require social media companies to take greater responsibility for the material they publish. But that would mean giving the tech giants a larger role in deciding what information should be disseminated. Do we really want them to have more power? An alternative would be to give the government greater control over social media. That works for China, but it's not necessarily a model that western democracies would want to replicate.

Acemoglu and Johnson want more regulation, taxation and antitrust law to solve the problems that technology causes. But is technology really to blame for undermining democracy any more than it is for increasing inequality? Europe has taken to social media with as much enthusiasm as America, and its politics has not obviously gone mad. Perhaps technology is a scapegoat: the problem lies not with the software but with the citizens.

Winnie the thug, Nelson the philanderer

This portrait of Africa's most famous couple is devastating to their reputations, says Michela Wrong

PA IMAGES/ALAMY



The Mandelas at Wembley Stadium in 1990

Five years ago I attended the book launch of a posthumous follow-up to Nelson Mandela's autobiography, *Long Walk to Freedom*. It proved to be something of a leftie love-in. Every activist who ever squeezed superglue into a Barclays ATM seemed to have mustered in the Royal Festival Hall that evening; you could have cut the nostalgia with a knife.

Just for once, you could almost hear the greying audience telling itself, good had triumphed over evil, and in their own small way its members had been a part of that historic reckoning. As for the man being celebrated, his crinkly smile and stooped figure had long acquired iconic status, the moral glow associated with the Pope or the Dalai Lama.

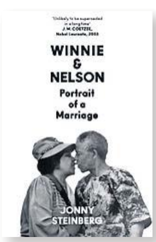
Even then, that vision was at odds with the prickly reality of modern South Africa, where young activists are more likely to accuse Mandela of selling out their generation to his white oppressors. Today, with South Africa prey to rolling blackouts, state corruption at jaw-dropping levels and the African National Congress fractured, that evening feels even more self-indulgent. Jonny Steinberg's gripping portrait of Africa's most famous romantic couple may well dispel the last scraps of that fuzzy complacency.

There is not a hint of malice or mischief about this account of Nelson Mandela's long relationship with Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, a woman left alone to contend with the apartheid state after 1963, when her husband was sent to endure a globally decried 27-year prison sentence on Robben Island.

The most nuanced of storytellers, Steinberg has always had an extraordinary ability to get inside his protagonists' heads, and does so here while scrupulously detailing the brutalising pressures to which the two were relentlessly subjected, experiences that left them warped and hardened. But the final portrait is nonetheless devastating, and some readers will put down the book feeling they might have preferred not to know.

If Winnie comes out of it worst — she should have been tried for the kidnapping and murders of a series of vulnerable youngsters — Nelson also emerges with his halo dented, a man who left a trail of bruised wives, mistresses and illegitimate children in his wake, and who was incapable, in old age, of standing up to Winnie's ambitious career demands or his family's greed. But then, those in need of blameless martyrs are better off not reading history.

The book starts at the point when the two first made eye contact in central Johannesburg in the late 1950s. Nelson, an ambitious young lawyer with a taste for double-breasted suits and flashy cars, was making a name for himself in the black middle class. He was already married with three children, but, as Steinberg writes, "among Nelson's colleagues and friends it was no secret that he liked women and that they often liked him back".



Winnie & Nelson
Portrait of a Marriage
by Jonny Steinberg

William Collins, 576pp; £25

Winnie, who was almost half his age, would later present herself as a starstruck ingenue, but she was far more complex and knowing than at first she appeared. Nelson was not the first older man she had dated, and for a while she coolly juggled a rival suitor, promising marriage to both. They married in 1958; she was 21, he 39.

Steinberg is fascinated by the relationship's self-conscious, performative nature. The emerging freedom movement needed heroes and heroines, and Winnie's face was constantly on the cover of South African magazines, the couple's glamour a weapon in the fight against apartheid. "There is abundant evidence that [Nelson] wanted the theatre he and Winnie made to be seen… The appearance of a desirable black couple carried immense power."

Once Nelson was jailed, Winnie took comfort where she could, something her husband knew — he was kept in the loop by his jailers — and accepted. What is baffling is to learn just how often Winnie took to her bed men she had been warned were double agents by older, wiser members of the ANC, who increasingly felt obliged to distance themselves from their rash young comrade.

The murders, though, will be what make most readers blanch. Press coverage of the murder of a teenager, Stompie Seipei, who in 1989 had his throat cut by the group of heavies who appointed themselves Winnie's bodyguards, forced many to reassess the woman carrying Nelson's revolutionary torch.

But I had certainly failed to register just how many other victims there were, boys and young men — in one case an idealistic Soweto doctor — killed because Winnie and her thugs decided they were spies, or suspected them of homosexuality, or simply because they had too much dirt on her. It seems astonishing, in retrospect, that when she died in 2018 at the age of 81 she had only ever received a non-custodial sentence for kidnapping.

What comes across is a woman who with the passage of the years became buoyed — indeed, thrilled — by the extreme violence of the society in which she operated, violence to which she was subjected during her torture by the infamous interrogator Theuns Swanepoel. His hatred, Winnie acknowledged, was something she absorbed and made her own.

Nelson knew a great deal — but not all — of what was going on. The efficiency of the apartheid regime's surveillance system

Young men were killed because Winnie and her gang thought they were gay or spies

has proved a great boon to historians. Letters were opened and filed, and guards kept transcripts of eavesdropped visitors' conversations with South Africa's most famous prisoner. A huge amount of paperwork was generated, and those records proved a gold mine for Steinberg.

Winnie was waiting at the prison gates to meet Nelson on his 1990 release, the couple holding their fists aloft in triumph for the cameras. But it was to prove a sour, unhappy reunion — how could the two ever live up to their gigantic reputations? Nelson cited Winnie's infidelity in the eventual, painful divorce case.

It was poignant to learn that Nelson's third wife, Graça Machel, brought the two back together in his final days. In a gesture of extraordinary generosity, Machel invited Winnie to Nelson's bedside to help to feed him, after realising Winnie was the only wife that the dementia-stricken former president remembered.

Towards the end of the book Steinberg begins to pull away from his protagonists. Tantalisingly, we are spared much of the detail of Nelson and Mandela's old ages, a period in which Winnie was embraced as a champion by the radical black activists who felt Nelson had betrayed them.

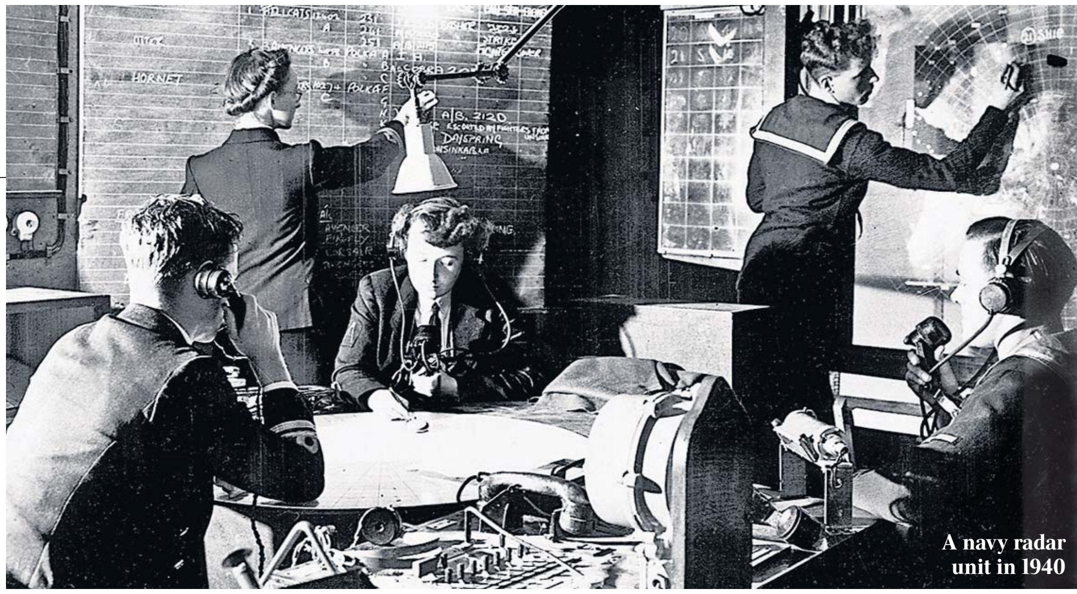
Steinberg, or his publisher, may have decided that much of this material was still so fresh in the public mind that it barely needed stating. Or perhaps they deemed that after 482 pages, most readers would have read enough. If so, they were wrong. Nelson and Winnie's departure from his pages only leaves us hungry for more.

Steinberg's relatively low profile outside South Africa is a bit of a puzzle. He is a superb chronicler of modern Africa, capturing the poignant, questing energy of its inhabitants' lives like no other writer. *A Man of Good Hope*, which traces the journey of a Somali trader from a childhood in Mogadishu to the outskirts of a Cape Town township simmering with xenophobia, is the non-fiction book I most often recommend to friends.

However brilliant, though, his previous books may simply have been too niche for a mass audience. In probing the motivations of the Antony and Cleopatra of their day, Steinberg has broken through to that group of readers who may not know much about Africa, but certainly know who Winnie and Nelson were.

Michela Wrong is the author of *Do Not Disturb: The Story of a Political Murder and an African Regime Gone Bad* (HarperCollins)

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A navy radar unit in 1940

books

The man who ‘broke the beam’ and won the war

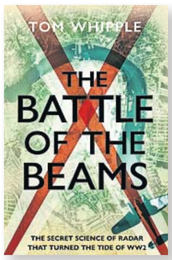
Allied superiority over the science of radar was crucial to victory in 1945, says Saul David

In December 1942 a lone Wellington bomber was nearing Mainz in Germany when it picked up the faint ping of a radio signal. Noting the frequency, the pilot kept his course. Ten minutes later the signal was so loud that it overwhelmed the receiver apparatus. It was clearly a German nightfighter using onboard radar to find its prey. As the crew scrambled to transmit their findings to Britain, the first cannon shells tore through the sides of the plane.

With one engine out of action and both pilots wounded, the plane limped back to Canterbury where the radio operator was dropped by parachute, clutching a hard copy of the vital message. Moments later the shattered plane ditched in the sea. By acting as bait, the crew had shown astonishing courage. Yet all survived and, thanks to this vital piece of intelligence, the last big gap in the German night air defences was closed. This unravelling of the German Lichtenstein radar system — “Emil-Emil” as it was known — was just the latest clash in the lengthy “Battle of the Beams”, the electromagnetic war fought in the air and on the airwaves. By coming out on top, Tom Whipple writes, British boffins made a contribution to overall victory that was no less important “than codebreaking or atomic weaponry”.

Aspects of the scientific war have been told before, notably the creation of a chain of defensive radar stations that helped to pinpoint incoming German planes and win the Battle of Britain. Whipple, the science editor of The Times, expands the story to include navigation aids that could direct a lone bomber to a single factory in the Ruhr; radars that could spot the outline of Berlin from 20,000ft through thick cloud; and German technological advances and attempts to counteract them.

Many Britons played their part: pilots, commandos and resistance fighters — “brave men and women who fought and died, sometimes to send back the details of technology they themselves did not understand”; a vast network of spotters, listeners, technicians and engineers; and a group of scientists who designed and built the kit that outwitted the Germans.



The Battle of the Beams
The Secret Science of Radar that Turned the Tide of WW2
by Tom Whipple
Bantam, 315pp; £20

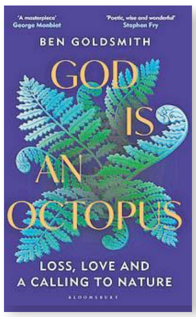
Chief among the scientists was RV Jones, the 28-year-old son of a postman, who was working in scientific intelligence for the Air Ministry when he convinced Winston Churchill in June 1940 that the Germans were using electromagnetic beams to guide their bombers towards British targets. It was, the prime minister remembered, “a painful shock” to realise the Germans had a device that allowed them to bomb by day or night, whatever the weather, “like an invisible searchlight”. He gave orders “for all countermeasures to receive absolute priority”, and Jones got cracking. Using many types of intelligence — including eavesdropping on captured pilots — Jones discovered that the German navigational aid Knickebein worked by following radio beams that followed the curvature of the Earth. He defeated it with machines designed to cauterise wounds after surgery, using them to fill the airwaves with so much noise on the same frequency that the intended signal was obscured. “In those ad hoc jammers-cum-fleshmelters,” Whipple writes, “lay the nation’s first systematic radio countermeasures.”

On D-Day the Allies had command of the sea, air and, for the first time, airwaves

One of the most daring escapades initiated by Jones was the capture of parts of the powerful Würzburg radar station at Bruneval, on the north coast of France, which was capable of detecting incoming Allied bombers and controlling flak and searchlights. A tri-service operation, codenamed Biting, involved dropping men of the 2nd Parachute Battalion and some technicians close to the radar station in February 1942. Having overwhelmed the small garrison, they dismantled the radar and withdrew with key components and a captured operator to a nearby beach where, after a brief firefight, they were picked up by the Royal Navy. Jones and his

‘She is always close by, even if I cannot see her’

After his daughter’s death, Ben Goldsmith found a new purpose in the natural world. By Alice O’Keeffe



God Is an Octopus
Loss, Love and a Calling to Nature
by Ben Goldsmith
Bloomsbury Wildlife, 256pp; £20

Anyone who has experienced a traumatic bereavement will have seared into their memory the moment their world changed, the split second that divided “before” from “after”.

For Ben Goldsmith, it was a phone call on a summer afternoon, mid-cricket match. His 15-year-old daughter, Iris, who he had left at home with a friend, had been in an accident on one of his farm vehicles. Was she dead, he asked, heart racing. “They haven’t pronounced her dead,” came the reply. “It was then,” he writes in this affecting memoir, “that I knew hope was extinguished.”

Iris had indeed lost her life, the buggy she was driving having flipped and landed on top of her, pinning her to the ground. By the time her father got home, as many as 30 emergency workers had arrived at the farm, but “they never stood a chance”. One asked if he was ready to see his daughter: “I must warn you, Iris is in a body bag.” Goldsmith notes the surreal mundanity of such interactions. “Policemen deal with these kinds of things all the time.”

Iris was, by her father’s description, an extraordinarily future-focused child. After her death, her parents found “mind-maps” she had drawn, setting out in detail her plans for her studies, her career, her social life. She wanted to be a barrister, learn Spanish, explore modern art. She also loved nature. “I know that I played a part in instilling [that] in her,” writes Goldsmith, the founder of a green investment fund and a government adviser on the environment, food and rural affairs.

In the months that followed, Goldsmith faced a yawning chasm of grief. Racked by despair and a torturous list of what-ifs, he sought comfort in the advice of other parents who had lost a child. He took one formative lesson from these conversations: “The ones who had struggled most were those who believed that death was the end.” Never having thought of himself as religious, he was surprised to feel a continuing connection with Iris. On the recommendation of another bereaved parent, he saw a medium, who seemed to be able to communicate with his daughter.

This sparked a restless exploration of spiritual practices, from Buddhism to Judaism to an ayahuasca ceremony (during which he scribbled “God is an octopus”, which became the title of his book). “I began to understand that I had always been religious … It has always been clear to me that the magic of nature is worthy of our total devotion.” Goldsmith had previously made some efforts to improve the ecology of his Somerset farm, Cannwood, letting hedgerows grow and creating ponds. But after Iris’s death, his plans for “rewilding” expanded. He ripped out fences, rewiggled streams and found that, as a result, “the wilder corners of the farm reverberate with memories of Iris.”

‘The parents who had struggled most were those who believed death was the end’

God Is an Octopus is an ambitious blend of memoir, nature diary and search for the meaning of life, the universe and everything. Goldsmith is at his best when writing about his daughter, and about the natural world, about which he is passionate. He describes a childhood hunting for bugs and birds’ nests near his home in west London, and riding on his father’s estate. (This is “home” and “estate” in the gran-



Ben Goldsmith with his daughter Iris

colleagues now knew how German radar stations operated and, thanks to panicky German security precautions (ringing the others with fortifications), their numbers and locations.

The final neutralisation of the German electronic defences began with the deception plan for D-Day: first, enemy radar stations in Normandy were attacked and destroyed by fighters armed with rockets; then the few that survived in the Pas de Calais were hoodwinked by boats, balloons, planes and dummy parachutists that mimicked the approach of a huge invasion armada. It worked. "They created just enough confusion," Whipple writes, "for just long enough" to divert the Germans' attention from Normandy.

D-Day succeeded because the Allies had command of the sea, the air and, for the first time, the airwaves. Ultimately, though, Germany lost the radio battle not because it lacked the technical expertise, but because it "lost the ability" to remain in the fight. German radio operators were drafted to frontline units; planes ran out of fuel. "They could no longer apply the resources," Whipple writes, "to bring their brain power to fruition."

Many histories claim without justification that their particular area of study changed the course of the Second World War. Whipple's deeply researched and engagingly written account is, by contrast, a genuine contender. Without the vital contribution of Jones and many others, the war would have been longer and bloodier and might even have had a different outcome. Jones's reward: the chair in natural philosophy at Aberdeen University to which he was appointed over the heads of far more experienced academics. The man who swung it was Churchill. You simply must employ, he told the principal, the man "who broke the bloody beam".

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dest sense — Goldsmith's mother, Annabel, she of Annabel's, the private members' club in Mayfair, lives at Ormeley Lodge, a listed property in Richmond, while his late father, James, owned swathes of Mexico.) He powerfully communicates the capacity of nature to rebound, and how this can help to heal our own injured psyches.

There are some blind spots, though. While losing Iris was a cruel stroke of fate, Goldsmith — who inherited £300 million aged 22 — never acknowledges, much less questions, the good fortune he has enjoyed in other respects. Not many grieving parents can afford to transport boulders from Cornwall to construct a full-size stone circle in their child's memory; still fewer can console themselves by turning their large country estate over to nature.

Goldsmith offers a highfalutin theory that our society lost its connection with nature after the Enlightenment. He never considers the surely more influential fact that half of England is owned by less than 1 per cent of the population. He tells us that one of his direct ancestors helped himself to large portions of Scotland, "brutally evicted a large number of Highland communities… burning their cottages", but doesn't reflect on what this means for his own position in the order of things. It's difficult to imagine wider society's attitude to nature changing all that much while many people have precious little access to it.

But it would be hard-hearted to read this memoir and not admire Goldsmith for his determination not only to survive a catastrophic loss, but to emerge from it with a new sense of meaning and purpose. I found myself willing him along in his spiritual journey as he pursues it into deeper, more challenging places, knowing that Iris "is always close by, even if I cannot see her".

GETTY IMAGES; ALAMY



How to rip up the rules like Toni and co

Getting divorced? Don't look for solace in the lives of the great women writers, says Susie Goldsbrough

"I would encounter a thousand deaths, rather than a night like the last. Your treatment has thrown my mind into a state of chaos; yet I am serene. I go to find comfort, and my only fear is, that my poor body will be insulted by an endeavour to recall my hated existence. But I shall plunge into the Thames where there is the least chance of my being snatched from the death I seek. God bless you! May you never know by experience what you have made me endure."

On October 10, 1795, Mary Wollstonecraft jumped off Putney Bridge after wandering around in the rain for a bit to weigh down her clothes with water. But the insult she feared came to pass: her fall was spotted by two watermen who fished her, unconscious, out of the river and took her straight to a nearby pub where she soon revived. If her attempt had succeeded, there would never have been a Frankenstein or a monster (her daughter, Mary Shelley, was born two years later).

Even unfulfilled, the suicide note that she left that day for her feckless lover Gilbert Imlay vibrates down the centuries with the eloquence of her fury and despair. She is so indignant, so wounded. And such a drama queen.

Unconventional — often unhappy — people are always the most interesting. The journalist Joanna Biggs's group biography-cum-memoir of eight women writers, *A Life of One's Own*, is full of strange and arresting images from the lives of talented oddballs.

Take George Eliot, newly independent at 31, sitting by the fire in the offices of The Westminster Review with her long hair let down, feet dangling over the arm of her easy chair, correcting proofs. Or Simone de Beauvoir having to be restrained from embracing the corpse of her lover Jean-Paul Sartre because his bed sores had turned gangrenous.

Or Ted Hughes standing at the end of the bed, holding up a mirror so Sylvia Plath could watch herself giving birth. Or Toni Morrison, writing late into the night at her kitchen table while her children slept, packing a pipe and smoking it.

Biggs wants to tear away at the anti-biographical plastering that sealed up English and American literary criticism in



A Life of One's Own
Nine Women Writers Begin Again
by Joanna Biggs

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 259pp; £18.99

Ted Hughes held up a mirror so Sylvia Plath could watch herself giving birth

the wake of New Criticism, an enormously influential mid-century movement that argued that the success of a work of art should be determined on its own without the aid or distraction of context ("Judging a poem is like judging a pudding or a machine").

As an undergraduate at Oxford, Biggs, now an editor at Harper's magazine in New York, was taught that "biography didn't matter because books weren't about the people who wrote them" — which is true, but that doesn't mean that the people who wrote them can't tell us something interesting about the books.

There are examples in *A Life of One's Own* that demonstrate some of the things you miss when New Criticism gets too puritanical. It might for instance change our view of *Middlemarch*, that most ethically serious of 19th-century novels, to know that it was written by a woman with whom most self-respecting Victorians wouldn't share a sherry bottle (she lived for 20 years with a man who was married to someone else).

But overall, unfortunately, this is a book that accidentally disproves its own thesis. Biography doesn't always add much.

Assembling vignettes of extremely famous writers (the roll-call of this book — Wollstonecraft, Eliot, Beauvoir, Plath and Morrison, plus Virginia Woolf, Zora Neale Hurston, Elena Ferrante and Biggs herself — reads like an undergraduate curriculum or an insomnia cure) is easy, but tying them together is harder. The subtitle, *Nine Women Writers Begin Again*, suggests a thesis that never quite emulsifies.

You can see what Biggs was trying to do. "Around the time I realised I didn't want to be married any more, I started visiting Mary Wollstonecraft's grave," she begins. This is the moment she decides to hop off the conveyor belt towards "children in the suburbs with the husband I'd met at nineteen" for the sake of freedom, writing (she says she wasn't sure she could do it and be married with kids) and uncertainty.

These eight writers are supposed to offer alternative models to the "domesticity trap", to show us how to disrupt expectations, begin again and flourish. "Few women, I fear, have had such reason as I have to think the long sad years of youth were worth living for the sake of middle age," Eliot wrote at 38 as her first book went to press, while Morrison published her debut, *The Bluest Eye*, aged 39.

But it's hard to generalise convincingly across such a broad canvas: Woolf and Plath were publishing in their twenties and thirties; there was no great breach in de Beauvoir's career that radically changed her direction. No, what these writers have in common is that they meant something to Biggs as she set about creating a new life — which wouldn't be a problem if said life were a little more exciting.

Biggs could have used the idea of unconventional living to probe some interesting questions about the conditions that create great art — why do some writers flourish on the margins (Wollstonecraft, Eliot) and some in domestic tranquillity (Jane Austen, Emily Dickinson)? How do these experiences change the nature of their work? But instead she brings everything back to her own life, which leads to some unintentional comedy.

Just as Eliot was flowering into a novelist, she visited the north Devon coast and, looking out at the landscape, felt the urge to "escape from all vagueness and inaccuracy into the daylight of distinct, vivid ideas". Biggs is moved to add: "In this wish, she makes me think of an April sunset I saw with my two-year-old nephew." On the subway, just after moving to New York, Biggs rereads Woolf and mulls the nature of change. "Was I maybe experiencing modernism?" Of *The Second Sex* she tells us: "I once went to a fancy dress party as Beauvoir."

It's not a fair comparison, really. My own life would hardly hold up well to Neale Hurston's party-hard Harlem Renaissance years. But then, Biggs could have chosen a different genre or written this one better. There are works she mentions that manage it, such as Claire Tomalin's biography of Wollstonecraft and Elizabeth Hardwick's *Seduction and Betrayal*.

She might also have spared the reader the book's clichéd title, her moral judgments ("There is a part of me disappointed in Zora" for not writing about race), weird literary criticism (*Ariel*, Plath's masterpiece, is pronounced "sexy but scary") and the final 13 times she tells us she went to Oxford (the first three are fine).

It feels as though Biggs is searching for a happy ending that doesn't exist — for empowerment and validation in the biographies of women writers who, like her, did something brave. But if there is a theme to this book, it's self-annihilation. Wollstonecraft tried, Woolf and Plath succeeded, Ferrante has effaced herself with anonymity, and even Steady Eddie Eliot seems to have come close to suicide ("Hopelessness has been to me, all through my life… the chief source of wasted energy").

There's a reason most people go to the suburbs and have children — because doing something that sets you apart from everyone else is incredibly hard. I don't read Woolf and Plath and Morrison for lifestyle tips. I read them for all that terrible, beautiful pain.

books

The foul-mouthed underdog of Formula 1

This is a gleeful, sweary guide to a bonkers sport from a loveably rogue insider, says Melanie Reid

DPPI MEDIA/ALAMY



Guenther Steiner with the Haas F1 team in 2018

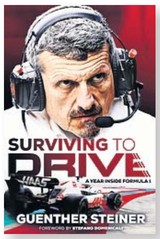
The fly-on-the-wall Netflix series *Formula 1: Drive to Survive* has made an unlikely global star out of Guenther Steiner, the tall, profane, no-filter, German-speaking Italian who runs the Haas racing team. Because Haas is a minnow in a multibillion-dollar sport, the fierce but loveable Steiner spends his life on an emotional rollercoaster of hope and exasperation, constantly dealing with disasters.

Such is his TV fame that Formula One fans wear T-shirts bearing his face and legendary quote: "We look like a bunch of wankers". He is mobbed in airports and parody Twitter accounts have been set up, which he accepts with grace. His eccentric charm is one of the reasons F1 has broken through in the US, with new races, record attendance figures and viewer numbers creeping up to Nascar levels.

This book is his diary of the 2022 season, with some autobiography thrown in. In an era when sports stars speak PR beige, Steiner is Brian Clough at his peak: fearless and candid. Remarkably, this appears to be the first time an F1 team has allowed an acting team principal off the leash.

On Bernie Ecclestone's support for Putin, for instance, he's scathing: "You're a 91-year-old billionaire, Bernie. For God's sake go and buy an island or something." On rainy race days, when the order of things is threatened, he's gleeful: "All the rich bastards at the top of the pile start getting nervous and all the poor people start rubbing their hands."

This theme is key to Steiner's appeal. His team is the maverick underdog, the David to the humourless corporate Goliaths of Mercedes, Red Bull and Ferrari. With a budget about a third of that of the big names (before a spending cap was introduced by F1 in 2021), Haas, the only American team, bumps along below them on the leader board — crashing cars, breaking down and celebrating the occasional fifth place as if it were an Olympic gold medal.



Surviving to Drive
A Year Inside Formula 1
by Guenther Steiner

Bantam, 282pp; £20

On the TV series, which he says he has never watched because he doesn't want it to inhibit him, and in his writing, Steiner, 58, is an irrepressible character. God loves a trier. Funny, self-mocking and ever-positive, he cajoles his team and juggles misfortunes in a pressure-cooker environment.

The son of a butcher from Merano, a town close to the Italian-Austrian border, he completed national service and became a rally mechanic, the redoubt of earthy Brits. "I learnt my English in a rally team and in rally it's foking obligatory to use bad language." From there he climbed to the top of motorsport, running the Jaguar racing team with Niki Lauda, then overseeing the brand's reincarnation as Red Bull Racing with Christian Horner.

Steiner had always dreamt of an American F1 team and in 2014 persuaded Gene Haas, a big name in Nascar racing, to fund one. Flying by the seat of his pants, the "ugly Italian with a big foking mouth" used his charisma to wangle a licence from Ecclestone, then invented a controversial scheme to use Ferrari parts. The Haas team has been hanging on ever since. In 2019 its

In an era when sports stars speak PR beige, he is Brian Clough at his peak: fearless

budget was reported to be $173 million to Ferrari's $463 million. Mercedes is said to have spent even more. Since 2021, however, a cost cap has restricted spending, with budgets limited to $135 million for 2023 — but not on drivers' salaries.

For Steiner, it is about democratising a sport that used to be a plutocracy. His skills, he says, are "bullshit, bad news, intense persuasion". F1 is "glamour, entertainment and bullshit" — but also one of the few sports that has true global appeal, unrealised until recently. A workaholic, Steiner lives a weird, nomadic life, flying 90,000 miles a year. Most people, he says, feel sorry for his wife, Gertie, and teenage daughter, Greta, who live in North Carolina and see him only during the off season.

Crises assail him constantly. Haas had a Russian sponsor who was a friend of Putin and whose son was a team driver, there are always technical issues with the cars and there's driver error. Steiner is interesting on F1 drivers. Loyally, he nurtured young Mick Schumacher, the son of Michael, who's a "good kid" despite three crashes — one at 170mph — which Steiner estimates cost Haas $2 million in repairs. Eventually, reluctantly, Steiner ended his contract.

"How far a driver can push a car depends on their talent and their ability and it's Mick's responsibility to know where to draw the line," Steiner writes wearily. "He's an F1 driver, for God's sake. He's at the pinnacle of motorsport."

Steiner doesn't — sadly — name the nepo babies who crowd F1, put in cars by their wealthy fathers. But he does make clear that nannying these spoilt young princes is exhausting. "They all get on my foking nerves, to be honest," he says, declaring that they lack the right attitude. "Look at [Fernando] Alonso… he is older than God, yet every week he gives 100 per cent and is always motivated." Oh, and Colin McRae was the best — "a foking genius… he could do things with a car that would make your eyes bleed".

Surviving to Drive reads like the night-time confessions of a football manager who is fighting to stay in the Premier League. It's a vivid, easy, jokey book about an equally bonkers world, where the starting price to buy an existing F1 team is half a billion dollars. Happily, good guys like Steiner still inhabit it.

Rereading The Last Picture Show by Larry McMurtry

Clive Davis hails a novel that brings to life the struggles and loves of small town Texas in the 1950s

Larry McMurtry was never short of readers. And there was an even bigger appetite for the films and TV series based on his books — *Lonesome Dove, Terms of Endearment* and, of course, the director Peter Bogdanovich's haunting black and white adaptation of *The Last Picture Show* all reached huge international audiences.

In a sense, McMurtry, who died in 2021, was a victim of his success: novelists who achieve popular acclaim are tainted in the eyes of high-minded critics.

There was another factor too, one pithily expressed recently by Barbara Kingsolver, the best-selling writer who was brought up in rural Kentucky: "If a novel takes place between eight square blocks of Manhattan, it's universal. And if it happens in Kentucky, it's regional."

McMurtry, who could be disarmingly self-deprecating, was the ultimate regional novelist, a prolific observer of all things Texan. Just as Anthony Trollope wove an entire world around the clerics, landowners and fox-hunters of Barchester, so McMurtry turned the Lone Star State into an almost mystical realm. He also chronicled the realities and myths of the American west, creating portraits of Calamity Jane and Billy the Kid. And we shouldn't forget that he co-wrote the screenplay of the film adaptation of Annie Proulx's short story *Brokeback Mountain*.

If there's one novel I'd recommend to newcomers, it would have to be *The Last Picture Show*, published in 1966, but set in a thoroughly anonymous small town in the early 1950s. Very little happens in Thalia. Young people hang out in cars, play pool and watch movies at the tiny cinema. The older generation drink, watch TV and argue. And, sometimes, they have affairs. To step into that world is to be transported to an era where time could seem to stand still, where a drive down an empty highway at the dead of night could be the nearest thing to having a good time.

McMurtry introduces us to Sonny and Duane, two high school friends who while away the hours at the pool hall. Duane is the luckier of the two — he is dating the prettiest girl around, Jacy, the spoilt daughter of the richest couple in town. But if Duane daydreams about marriage, little does he know that Jacy has other plans. Using her erotic charms like the Martian heat-ray in *The War of the Worlds*, she ruthlessly calculates which beau will give her the most social status. In the end, poor Duane, cocky though he is, doesn't stand a chance. Sonny, meanwhile, begins a fling with Ruth, the kindly but neglected wife of the school's bullying football coach.

I hesitate about trying to summarise the plot because much of it will sound painfully mundane. But there is a quiet kind of poetry here. What McMurtry captures in exquisite detail is the sense of folk going through the motions.

The genius of the book lies, in part, in how it shows people creating meaning regardless, even if, in the case of Sonny's friend, the mentally handicapped Billy, it means compulsively taking a broom and sweeping up everything in sight, indoors and outdoors, for hour after hour.



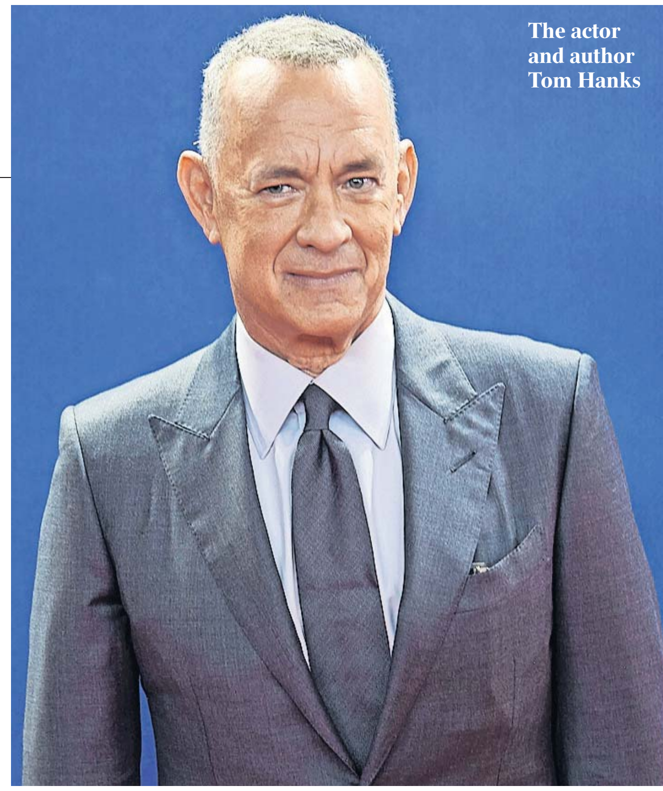
YOUNG LOVE Timothy Bottoms and Cybill Shepherd in the 1971 film

McMurtry turns the Lone Star State into a mystical realm

In one beautifully sketched escapade, Duane and Sonny take off on what they hope will be a life-changing escapade across the border to a town in Mexico. They dream about sex and adventure, but find little more than an ancient porno film being projected on a sheet in a dingy bedroom where children are sleeping.

It sounds ugly, and yes, at times it is. Yet you're always aware of McMurtry's sense of humanity. "*The Last Picture Show* is lovingly dedicated to my home town," he declares in the introduction. The characters are humans he knows intimately. Sam the Lion, the weary old timer who runs the pool hall, may seem like a burnt-out case, but he has a kind of nobility in him, even if no one is sure why he bears his nickname. The book reeks of stale cheeseburgers and fries. McMurtry still makes you wish you could take a bite.

CARLOS DAFONTE/NURPHOTO/SHUTTERSTOCK



The actor and author Tom Hanks

Guess what? Tom Hanks is a good writer too

The film star's first novel — an affectionate insider's look at the Hollywood machine — is a proper literary belter, says Andrew Billen

The cover of the first novel by Tom Hanks — yes, *the* Tom Hanks — carries endorsements from Matt Haig and Richard Osman, but don't let that put you off. Whereas critics in 2017 accused Hanks's short story collection, *Uncommon Type*, of cliché, *The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece* is a proper work of literature, expertly structured, populated by characters and not caricatures and told in coruscating, confident prose with not a duff sentence in more than 400 pages.

Admittedly, it carries with it one of serious literature's most frequent drawbacks, excessive length, but no one demands you read it over a weekend. It recalls Tom Wolfe's second novel, *A Man in Full*, a work improvable only by having each chapter reduced by a third (let's make that half), and still damn fine at, uh, 752 pages.

The title explains what Hanks's book is. The making of this imaginary masterpiece is related by a small-time freelance film reviewer called Joe Shaw, who is granted access all areas by a legendary director and screenwriter, Bill Johnson, who likes that Joe hasn't walked out of a movie yet. The book's voice therefore is Joe's, not Hanks's, and it harks back to *Picture* by Lillian Ross. Her 1952 account of the making of John Huston's *The Red Badge of Courage* ran, in my very small-type edition, to 200 pages. The narrative tone is tough-ass empathy. It is good to hear it again.

Knightshade: The Lathe of Firefall is not only a lousy title for a film, but just one movie in a superhero franchise. You might expect that Hanks, who has never been a Marvel man, would disapprove of the genre. Instead he evidently believes that within every genre lies the opportunity for transcendence. But even were *Knightshade* not to manage that, Hanks would still be awed by Hollywood's spirit of collective enterprise and the expertise of its manufacture. Director Johnson ends each day's shoot with the declamation that the hundreds under his command are loved — and no one even throws up, although a reader will wonder whether, alone of all human endeavour, Hollywood film production really admits no incompetence or sloth.

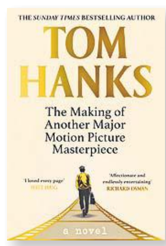
The novel is divided in the manner of movie production: "Prep is Diplomacy. The Shoot is War. Post is the Occupation." Post (the editing) gets short shrift. Instead there is a long pre-history section on how the film's hero, Firefall, is based on a military flame-thrower and how he came to be immortalised by a young comic book artist. These pages become a slog, but prove that Hanks, Hollywood's everyman, can write about everymen too.

The reader will hope that *Knightshade* will be the Film That Goes Wrong. Instead, in Hanks film terms, it's *Apollo 13*: when things go wrong, they are overcome. A pig of a leading man is chosen. In some of the book's funniest sequences he elects to play the self-combusting super-grunt in "more interesting" ways (gay, maybe?). He is quietly kissed off. But will his replacement fall for the intelligent beauty who plays Knightshade, the heroine? What chaos will ensue if he does? The new lead, being a decent family man (like Hanks), feels the crush and heroically resists.

It is all in the telling, however, and in the detail. There will never be a superior account of how Hollywood blockbusters got made in the early decades of the 21st century. The 60 or so days of such a shoot are apparently known as "the blur", and it is Hanks's talent to bring every detail into such sharp focus we can appreciate the magic yet understand how it is fabricated. Nothing goes undescribed, not even the pompous animated production company logos that preface movies these days, eg a bird of prey sweeping into its close-up to announce Hawkeye Productions. Hanks's hearing is acute too, especially for the ruthless euphemisms of Tinseltown: "We are pausing production to make a change in our cast. In the role of Firefall …"

The only element missing is the critical reception the film finally receives, and this is the book's slyest joke. Yes, we critics will bemoan *TMoAMMPM*'s gigantism, but look at what its fullness contains! There are even pages of comic books. There is a QR code at the end via which we can read the *Knightshade* script.

In the Seventies the infant Martin Amis told David Niven on live TV that Niven's memoir, *The Moon's a Balloon*, was pretty good considering he was not a writer. *TMoAMMPM* is pretty good considering Hanks is. Reviewing *Uncommon Type* in this paper, Melissa Katsoulis predicted that he would write a great novel one day. The day has come.



The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece
by Tom Hanks

Hutchinson Heinemann, 448pp; £22

Wandering into someone else's therapy session

The new novel from the author of Exciting Times is caustic and funny, but flat, says Susie Goldsbrough



The Happy Couple
by Naoise Dolan

Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 265pp; £16.99

This is a story about two people who should not be getting married. That much is clear from the start. There's the title: you can't call a novel *The Happy Couple* without a sense of humour and anyone familiar with *Exciting Times*, Naoise Dolan's acidic, seriously funny 2020 debut, will recognise her signature sarcasm. Then there's the break-up that turns into a proposal by way of a series of verbal backflips ("Marriage will never happen between us"… "sometimes you say things because you want me to contradict you"). And, of course, there's the happy couple.

Celine is a classical pianist from Dublin with only a cursory interest in life beyond the ivory keyboard. People are a distraction from practice, including the man she's marrying. Luke is useful because he feeds the cat and takes out the bins, and because "Celine was a simple enough creature, and did better with kisses than without".

Luke, meanwhile, is fascinated by his fiancée precisely because of her single-mindedness, since he is pathologically non-committal. Their exes — self-dramatising Maria (Celine's, for she swings both ways) and cocaine-banker Archie (Luke's, so does he) — buzz around them like flies. You see what I mean about this marriage not being a fantastic idea.

Dolan makes sure the reader is aware of all these fissures early on. The couple spend a lot of time explaining their foibles — to themselves, to each other. "You find it boring to accept compliments because you don't care about things you've already done," Luke tells Celine. "I think relationships have a melody and a harmony… I'm shit at harmony," he states of himself (do people talk like this?).



Dolan, *left*, is clever, effortlessly so, and her observations about people usually add something to the clichés. But I'm not sure Dolan makes us care enough about these fridge-cold people to warrant such granular breakdowns of their deficiencies. It feels like wandering into someone else's therapy session.

The weird thing is that in theory *The Happy Couple* sounds like the perfect novel. There's a marriage plot (almost all the best novels have one: *Middlemarch, Pride and Prejudice, High Fidelity*), an unusually talented young writer (read *Exciting Times*), and a wedding setting.

I ran through my proof copy in a few greedy hours, enjoying the snarky Dolanisms ("Bridesmaid who hadn't f***ed Luke. That was how she remembered who Ró was") and the way she toys with form. There are text exchanges, two word chapters, pages split into lists or bullet points, which gives the prose an elastic, irreverent quality. A couple of the supporting cast, the Irish ones, are particularly moreish, specifically Celine's younger sister, Phoebe, who would rather "shit on her hands and clap" than do what's expected of her.

There are lots of clever quips that don't mean much when you break them down

But when I sat down to write the review, I could remember oddly little about *The Happy Couple*. So I picked it up again and it felt more like digging than reading, squinting down at the sentences in search of a depth that wasn't there. There are lots of clever-sounding quips that don't mean very much when you break them down: "One spring day, while she waited at the bus stop, Taylor Swift's *I Forgot That You Existed* came up on shuffle. Celine wasn't quite there yet; but then, nor was Taylor… The cultural ephemera we use to get over our exes is reliant on the labour of those who weren't over theirs." Which is basically a fancy way of saying people who write break-up songs are usually going through a break-up.

Jokes flop ("there are lads at MI6 who talk straighter than you"), images don't quite stick the landing ("Somme's that way, sorry, but we're all out of helmets," Phoebe tells Luke silently — to signal that he deserves to be butchered in a muddy trench), moments of profundity feel oddly banal ("It was one thing to glue a shattered object back together… [but] Celine would be… gripping two halves, calling them whole"). There's the non-white best friend — much in vogue at the moment for novels by white women about white women. The frequent perspective switches generate quite a lot of repetition for a short book. The writing has an uneasy quality. When you compare it to the commanding, merciless voice of *Exciting Times*, it feels like Dolan has drifted.

The message of *The Happy Couple* is that the patriarchy is rubbish. It has ruined romance, internalised homophobia and sold us the convenient lie that monogamy will make you happy. I disagree with basically none of this but I came for a good time, not to be told that in "heterosexual monogamy, the woman forfeits at least as much freedom as the man — but her agency isn't valued enough to be considered a loss." I'm with Keats: "We hate poetry that has a palpable design upon us." All that being said, it's still a witty, breezy read set at a wedding. But I wanted more.

books

Is my boyfriend a sex addict?

Siobhan Murphy's picks include a jolly, jaunty Bridgerton spinoff and a MeToo-inspired tale





popular fiction

Book of the month

Between Us by Mhairi McFarlane
HarperCollins, 448pp; £8.99

Roisin knows next to nothing about her boyfriend Joe's new primetime drama before she sits down with their group of friends to watch the first episode. Joe's screenwriting breakthrough was a cop show called *SEEN* that achieved *Line of Duty* levels of adulation, so everyone will be watching *Hunter*, including Roisin's Year 10 pupils.

The couple's lives have been transformed by his success, but their relationship has been rocky — and as Roisin watches the new show she realises that Joe has taken a traumatic secret she had shared with him and plastered it on the screen. And if that was culled from real life, how much more of this tale of a "sex addict thrill-seeker" is true as well?

Mhairi McFarlane's ninth novel is a treat. Roisin's rollercoaster ride of discovering who she has really been sharing her life with for the past decade is played out with plenty of mind games, meltdowns and twisty drama. Her friends are engaging characters with their own dilemmas, and the pushes and pulls of friendship are convincingly rendered with an easy humour. Is Roisin's unexpected knight in shining armour improbably perfect? Yes, but he's also totally swoonworthy, so that's a win.

The Girls of Summer by Katie Bishop
Bantam, 339pp; £14.99

A reckoning with the past comes in this startling debut novel, which treads similar troubling ground to Emma Cline's *The Girls* and Sofka Zinovieff's *Putney*. Rachel, who is in her mid-thirties, has returned with her husband to the Greek island where her life changed aged 17.

A summer of travelling before her A-levels had taken her and her friend Caroline there; the attentions of Alistair, a much older man, made her stay. What she and the other girls working for Alistair and his boss did for those men, and the love Rachel thought she had found, have shaped her life ever since. But all is not as Rachel has chosen to remember it, as she is slowly forced to realise.

Katie Bishop was inspired by the #MeToo debates to write this perturbing tale of consent and control, and it packs an incredible punch, switching assuredly between teenage Rachel swept up in the giddy rush of freedom and feeling desired by a man, and adult Rachel piecing together hard truths she has desperately suppressed. The dark undertow of an idyllic summer and the lies girls are told and tell themselves are captured with stark, affecting honesty and evocative prose.

Seven Exes by Lucy Vine
Simon & Schuster, 416pp; £8.99

According to an article that Esther reads in a grungy old copy of Cosmour magazine, there are seven types of person a woman will date before they settle on The One. Single and nearly 30, Esther scans the list and realises with horror that she has dated them all, so that means one of them must have been The One — and she let them go. There's nothing for it but to get in touch with them and find out which it was.

That's the toe-curling premise of Lucy Vine's latest book, which careens along with all the hot-mess energy you'd expect from the author of, well, *Hot Mess*. There's an awful lot of trauma involved in "retracing your boyfriend steps", whether it's the First Love, the Friend with Benefits, the Missed Chance or the Work Mistake.

Esther's increasingly complicated odyssey through the reject pile is a sweary, panic-sweaty but ultimately rather endearing take on facing your demons — and realising that women's magazine features should rarely be believed. Definitely don't try this project at home.

The Cassandra Complex by Holly Smale *Century, 432pp; £14.99*

Holly Smale is the author of the *Geek Girl* series of children's books, but has branched out with a first novel for adults, drawing on her own experience of autism. Her heroine, 31-year-old Cassandra, discovers in the middle of a disastrous day — dumped and fired in quick succession — that she can time-travel (don't ask). Could rerunning events mean she can save her relationship with Will and hang on to her PR job? The problem is remembering what she has done (and undone) every time she goes back for another attempt…

The trend for claiming every difference as a superpower feels a bit tired now, and we're not short on books involving time-travel and/or seeing people's auras. But despite my misgivings about all of those things being stuffed in one book, Smale makes Greek myth-obsessed Cassandra a compelling companion, painfully aware that she doesn't fit in, but unable to change her compulsions. She's smart and often funny, and her chaotic attempts to set the world to rights are poignantly rendered.

Queen Charlotte by Julia Quinn and Shonda Rhimes *Piatkus, 335pp; £22*

The *Bridgerton* prequel *Queen Charlotte* has arrived on Netflix — and here's the book, "inspired by" the series and written by Julia Quinn (the author of the original *Bridgerton* books) and Shonda Rhimes (the creator of the TV show). If you're prepared to go with the idea that George III's wife was black, it's a jolly enough jaunt.

The German princess Charlotte meets her betrothed on their wedding day as she's trying to scale the wall of St James's Palace to flee. She's smitten by his good looks and kindness, but George's plan for their wedding night involves them sleeping in separate palaces. He's secretly struggling with mental illness, and employing a doctor with dubious methods to cure him.

Meanwhile, the well-to-do black families hastily ennobled by the king's mother are looking to the new queen to cement their precarious place in high society. From the moment Charlotte thinks, "Oh. *Oh*. He should not have gone there," it's all gloriously anachronistic. But despite the TV show's reputation, and the repeated appearances of George's "enormous telescope" (he's obsessed with astronomy), there's dismayingly little steaminess.

Meet Joe Grim, the pain-eating human punching bag

A delicate-jawed author goes toe to toe with a boxer famed for his ability to take a beating. By Robbie Millen

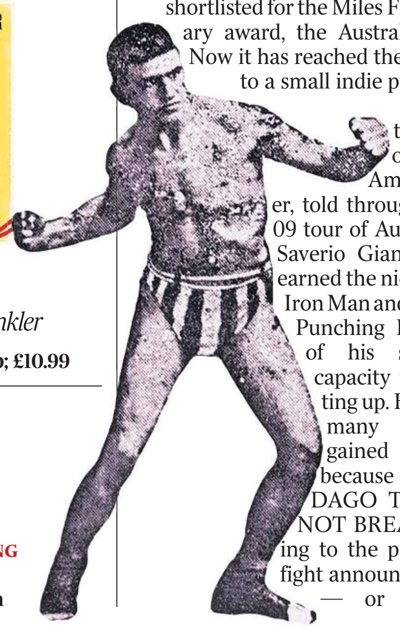
More novels should begin with an unsparing mock review of the pages that lie ahead. "There is no narrative arc, close to zero love interest, skittish occasional action, incident rather than plot, and a narrator who is intermittently compelling but prevaricates and self-deludes like a broody prince at Elsinore." The pretend review goes on to carp at the author's "wearisome wallowing in the sludge of masculinity" and "recursive self-indulgence".

Has that put you off yet? No? Well, if you can't stand novels with footnotes or chin-stroking quotations from Roland Barthes, Terry Eagleton and other master pseuds then you may as well stop reading now…

Actually, don't stop. *Grimmish*, a novel about Joe Grim, a boxer famed for his ability to take a beating, is playful, touching, eccentric, full of feeling — and you'll learn a bit about pain and pugilism. And you've got to love a book that features — for reasons unclear to me — a foul-mouthed goat who says such things as: "There are two types of people in this world: those who can extrapolate from incomplete data."



Grimmish
by Michael Winkler
Peninsula, 251pp; £10.99



TAKING A SWING
The American boxer Joe Grim

The book — part novel, part essay — by its very existence is a blast against publishing by numbers. It was self-published by Michael Winkler in 2021 and went on to be shortlisted for the Miles Franklin literary award, the Australian Booker. Now it has reached the UK, thanks to a small indie publisher.

Grimmish is the life story of the Italian-American boxer, told through his 1908-09 tour of Australia. Born Saverio Giannone, Grim earned the nicknames the Iron Man and the Human Punching Bag because of his superhuman capacity to keep getting up. He didn't win many fights but gained a following because he was "the DAGO THEY CANNOT BREAK", according to the patter of one fight announcer. Winkler — or rather the nameless main narrator — is obsessed with Grim's ability to eat pain.

Some of the story is told by the narrator's sherry-tippling great-uncle, who as a youth met the "punishment glutton". At other times Grim tells his own story (he advises dunking your head in a bucket of fresh bull's urine to keep the skin fight-ready), or we read contemporary newspaper reports, or the official papers when he was confined to a lunatic asylum for 45 days in 1909.

Winkler, a writer based in Melbourne with "a jaw of surpassing delicacy", conjures vivid fight scenes, then jumps to philosophical musings about the nature and meaning of pain or the link between violence and masculinity. There are some entertaining interludes, such as a visit to a headbutting competition in the Australian outback or how the child Grim used to harden his noggin and make money from amazed spectators by running headlong into the bronze doors of a cathedral.

He advises dunking your head in a bucket of bull's urine to keep the skin fight-ready

The pointy-headed philosophising can plunge into the shallows of pretension. "In the semiotics of suffering, the abolition of pain is a victory for meaning and a triumph over randomness, even if some postmodern theory sees such randomness, absurdly, as a kind of freedom." If you say so, Prof Eagleton, if you say so.

But some of the footnotes are cracking: we learn that the cartoonist and boxing writer Thomas Aloysius Dorgan coined the phrases "lounge lizard", "hard-boiled", "the cat's pyjamas" and "for crying out loud". And this line from Cyril Connolly is worth repeating: "We are all serving a life sentence in the dungeon of self." Winkler has an aphoristic turn of phrase too — "the young male brain is a bizarre country and I would not advise visiting, not ever"; "if you take up residence in your own head for long enough, you start to think you're able to evict the landlord." But then he sends himself up by having a character announce: "That stuff, I can get for a buck a cliché at my local homily dispenser."

So what does all this meta-fictional fooling around amount to? I haven't the foggiest and I'm not entirely sure Winkler does either, but it was fun spending time with this Aussie version of Geoff Dyer as he sparred with the shade of one of boxing's most unusual characters.

bestsellers

audiobook of the week

***The Whispering Muse* by Laura Purcell, read by Sheila Atim, Bloomsbury, 10hr 1min**

Choosing the Ugandan-born Shakespearean actress Sheila Atim to narrate Laura Purcell's Victorian theatreland-set gothic novel is a stroke of genius. She draws us in to its convincingly imagined world with confiding immediacy as its Cockney heroine, Jenny, knocks nervously at the door of the theatre owner Mrs Dyer and takes up her job as dresser to Lilith Erikson, the lead actress.

When it emerges that Jenny is also to spy on Lilith to discover whether Mr Dyer is unfaithful, she hesitates, but Mrs Dyer's generosity overwhelms her, and it is some time before she realises that her employer has a different agenda.

What is really at stake is a sinisterly magical timepiece engraved with the face of the tragic Muse Melpomene. It endows its holder with miraculous power, but also has an unpredictably murderous tendency.

The novel is divided into five bloody "Acts" as the players enact *Macbeth* and others, and Atim throws herself into numerous gruesome climaxes with dramatic urgency. "My guts were squirming like a barrel of eels," Jenny gasps as she sees the severed head of one unfortunate actor.

Christina Hardyment

Paperback Fiction

1 (new) **The Three Dahlias** Katy Watson *Constable £9.99*
2 (3) **Lessons in Chemistry** Bonnie Garmus *Transworld £9.99*
3 (new) **Memphis** Tara M Stringfellow *John Murray £9.99*
4 (4) **Shrines of Gaiety** Kate Atkinson *Transworld £9.99*
5 (1) **Trespasses** Louise Kennedy *Bloomsbury £8.99*
6 (6) **Young Mungo** Douglas Stuart *Picador £9.99*
7 (2) **Do No Harm** Jack Jordan *Simon & Schuster £9.99*
8 (7) **Bad Actors** Mick Herron *Baskerville £8.99*
9 (5) **The Romantic** William Boyd *Penguin £9.99*
10 (new) **Demon Copperhead** Barbara Kingsolver *Faber £9.99*

Hardback Fiction

1 (1) **Happy Place** Emily Henry *Viking £14.99*
2 (new) **On His Majesty's Secret Service** Charlie Higson *Ian Fleming Publications £12.99*
3 (7) **The Hike** Lucy Clarke *HarperCollins £14.99*
4 (3) **It Ends With Us** Colleen Hoover *Simon & Schuster £16.99*
5 (5) **Death of a Bookseller** Alice Slater *Hodder & Stoughton £14.99*
6 (new) **August Blue** Deborah Levy *Hamish Hamilton £18.99*
7 (new) **The Ferryman** Justin Cronin *Orion £22*
8 (new) **Fourth Wing** Rebecca Yarros *Piatkus £20*
9 (4) **The Maiden** Kate Foster *Mantle £14.99*
10 (6) **Atalanta** Jennifer Saint *Wildfire £16.99*

Paperback Non-fiction

1 (new) **The Lost Rainforests of Britain** Guy Shrubsole *William Collins £10.99*
2 (1) **Femina: A New History of the Middle Ages** Janina Ramirez *WH Allen £10.99*
3 (2) **BBC Proms 2023** *BBC Proms £8.99*
4 (3) **The Hairy Dieters' Eat Well Every Day** *Seven Dials £18.99*
5 (new) **The Glucose Goddess Method** Jessie Inchauspé *New River £22*
6 (7) **Atomic Habits** James Clear *Random House Business £17.99*
7 (6) **Super-Infinite: The Transformations of John Donne** Katherine Rundell *Faber £10.99*
8 (5) **Chums** Simon Kuper *Profile £9.99*
9 (–) **Prisoners of Geography** Tim Marshall *Elliott & Thompson £9.99*
10 (–) **Otherlands** Thomas Halliday *Penguin £10.99*

Hardback Non-fiction

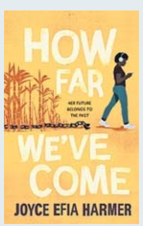
1 (2) **The Future of Geography** Tim Marshall *Elliott & Thompson £20*
2 (new) **Johnson at 10: The Inside Story** Anthony Seldon & Raymond Newell *Atlantic £25*
3 (3) **Bored of Lunch: The Healthy Air Fryer Book** Nathan Anthony *Ebury £18.99*
4 (7) **Ultra-Processed People** Chris van Tulleken *Cornerstone £22*
5 (5) **How Westminster Works… and Why It Doesn't** Ian Dunt *Weidenfeld & Nicolson £18.99*
6 (4) **Surviving to Drive** Guenther Steiner *Bantam £20*
7 (10) **The God Desire** David Baddiel *TLS Books £9.99*
8 (new) **How to Read a Tree** Tristan Gooley *Sceptre £22*
9 (9) **The Earth Transformed** Peter Frankopan *Bloomsbury £30*
10 (8) **Killing Thatcher** Rory Carroll *Mudlark £25*

Waterstones THE NUMBER IN PARENTHESES REPRESENTS CHART POSITIONS LAST WEEK. DATA SUPPLIED BY WATERSTONES FOR THE WEEK ENDING MAY 6

children's book of the week

A time-hopping tale of slavery impresses

Lucy Bannerman



***How Far We've Come* (14+) by Joyce Efia Harmer, Simon & Schuster, 318pp; £14.99**

How Far We've Come is *Back to the Future* meets *Gone With the Wind,* but instead of going back in time to ensure her parents get together at the high school prom, teenage Obah must use the gift of time travel to liberate everyone who is enslaved with her on a plantation in 1830s Barbados.

A considerably greater challenge, then, than any that faced Marty McFly. "Babes born white cry drops of silver, but the babe born black like we? Him cry salt tears."

When she first sees a white boy's face, hiding in the brush, as she runs secret errands for her cruel mistress and the slave master, she thinks she has seen a "duppy", a ghost or spirit from Afro-Caribbean folklore. But it is Jacob, a time-travelling boy from 21st-century Somerset, trying to make amends for his aristocratic ancestors' slaving past. "Maybe I didn't dream up that small white face by the tree just now. Seem him eyes is as round and scared as mine… as if him have never seen a slave before."



And so Obah flits between the tamarind trees and atrocities of the Unity Plantation, where her friends are blinded and her protectors lashed, and Jacob's world of protests, where statues are toppled and 15-year-old black boys die in police custody. It's a brilliant idea and a powerful debut by Joyce Efia Harmer, *left*, a Londoner of Ghanaian heritage, who says in her introduction that Obah "is the 'me' I would be were I to go back in time. The 'me' of my nightmares… [She] gets to do the unimaginable: challenge and change her position in life."

Tantalising though this revenge fantasy may be, it doesn't entirely work. Why would it take a glimpse of the future to awaken Obah's sense of injustice, which would presumably already be burning red raw?

But even where the story falls flat, there is still Obah's vivid and infectious voice, which grips you from the very first page and has you rooting for her on every time-hop along the way.

Ayesha Hazarika with Times Radio Drive

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Critic's choice

The Stones and Brian Jones

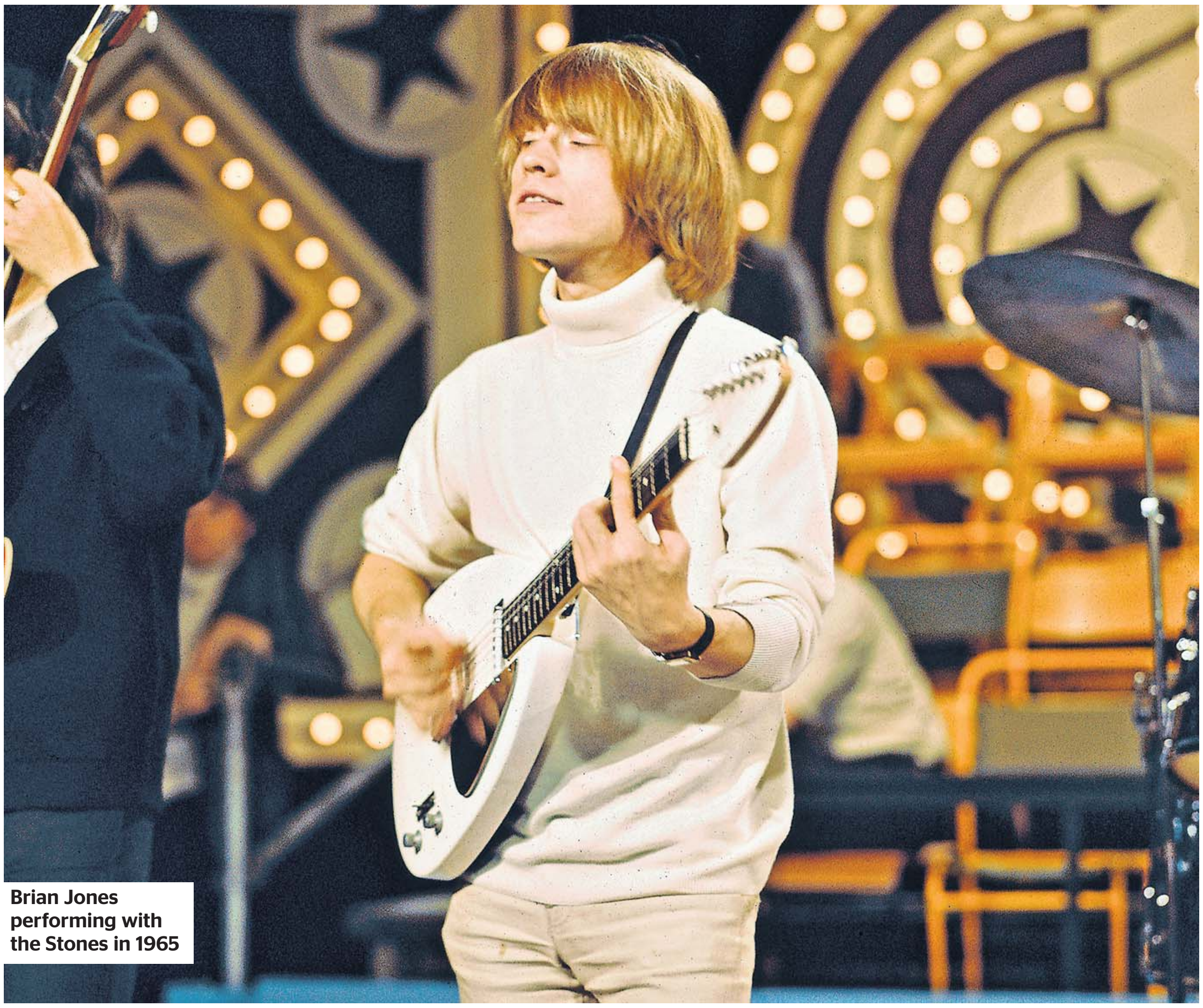
Mon, BBC2, 9pm

In the early days of the Rolling Stones, it was Brian Jones who got all the fan mail. The band's female fans wanted to be his Lady Jane even more than they wanted to be Mick's. Yet by the time of his death by drowning in 1969, he'd been ditched from the band and was lost in drug-addled self-loathing. He is a fascinating figure, and by concentrating on one aspect and period of the Stones, Nick Broomfield's feature-length film is more engrossingly "deep-dive" than so many others, with much lesser-seen footage.

Broomfield begins by recalling how, as a 14-year-old, he encountered Jones on a train when the latter was on the brink of fame (they talked about… trains). But he's not so much of a fan that he sanitises the musician: he could be cruel and had a habit of getting girls pregnant, then leaving them. A new interview with Bill Wyman gives insight into Jones's tale, which is one of rebellion, dizzying fame, a turbulent love life and rock'n'roll's first superstar casualty.

James Jackson

DAVID REDFERN/GETTY IMAGES



Brian Jones performing with the Stones in 1965

Radio choice

Late Junction

Fri, Radio 3, 11pm

"Pretty much 70 per cent of my childhood and adolescence was spent making mixtapes," the comedian James Acaster admits cheerfully. Young James gave lots away, including to girls he fancied — but they never knew how he really felt because an Acaster mixtape was two-a-penny in the Northamptonshire of his 1990s youth.

Happily, the musical enthusiasms of the man who in lockdown launched a record called *Party Gator Purgatory* (there's a story to that title) haven't waned, as is proved by these two hours of reflections and out-there choices on *Late Junction*.

It's easy to forget what a sensation (in Radio 3 terms, admittedly) *Late Junction* was when it was launched 24 years ago by the controller at the time, Roger Wright. It won a hatful of awards and is still going strong as the radio week's last, mellow breath.

I'm not ashamed to admit that I'm usually unfamiliar with much of what I hear and had certainly never encountered many of Acaster's choices, such as the Brazilian vocalist Elza Soares (wonderful) and the experimental Chicago hip-hop trio the Sooper Swag Project with their fiendishly tricky number *Dunk on a Yunk*. And what a song title that is. God bless musos, eh?

Ben Dowell

Podcast choice

The Rabbit Hole Detectives

Richard Coles, Charles Spencer and the historian Cat Jarman "set each other the task of finding out as much as we can on a particular subject". Most recently we had an account of falconry from Spencer, a look at urinals from Coles and a history of smallpox from Jarman.

James Marriott

Best of the rest

Eurovision Song Contest
Today, BBC1, 8pm
Live from Liverpool. Can Mae Muller go one further than Sam Ryder last year?

The British Academy Television Awards
Sun, BBC1, 7pm
It's hard to predict this year's winners, except *The Traitors* — surely a shoo-in for best entertainment. Hosted by Rob Beckett and Romesh Ranganathan.

Ten Pound Poms
Sun, BBC1, 9pm
A soapy new drama set just after the Second World War, in which a group of Brits (among them Warren Brown and Michelle Keegan, *below*) pursue the sunny Australian dream. It quickly turns out to be no fun at all.



The Tragedy of Macbeth
Sun, BBC4, 8pm
The Almeida Theatre's intense reinterpretation of *Macbeth*, starring James McArdle and Saoirse Ronan. This paper's theatre critic said it "brilliantly fuses the supernatural with brutish reality".

Steeltown Murders
Mon, BBC1, 9pm
An engrossing true crime drama set in Port Talbot, south Wales. It flips back and forth between the early 1970s and 30 years later to show how an unsolved case was cracked. Philip Glenister leads the cast.

Without Sin
Mon-Thu, ITV, 9pm
On ITVX since Christmas, this superior drama has Vicky McClure as a grieving taxi driver in Nottingham who fatefully agrees to meet with the imprisoned killer of her daughter. The plot darkens further from there. **JJ**

The best films

Air (15)
Prime Video
Ben Affleck directs and stars with Matt Damon, *below with Affleck*, in this corporate drama about how Nike hooked up with the basketball icon Michael Jordan.



Still: A Michael J Fox Movie (15)
AppleTV+
An intimate account of the 61-year-old actor's career and struggles with Parkinson's disease. Fox is impressive in his lack of self-pity.

Mrs Harris Goes to Paris (PG)
Sky Cinema Premiere
Lesley Manville as a 1950s Battersea cleaning lady who takes a once-in-a-lifetime trip to glamorous Paris.

The Mauritanian (15)
Sun, BBC2, 10pm
An attorney (Jodie Foster) defends a Guantanamo detainee (Tahar Rahim) in Kevin Macdonald's drama. **JJ**

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Saturday 13 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Eurovision Song Contest 2023
BBC1, 8pm

Eurovision fever now hits boiling — or that might be saturation — point with tonight's grand final. The BBC has never been a broadcaster to undersell a feelgood event designed to unite the nation, especially with Liverpool helping last year's winners, plucky Ukraine, which can't host for obvious reasons. Anyhoo, a heap of interesting acts will be joining the "big five" of the United Kingdom, France, Spain, Germany, Italy and last year's winners Ukraine at the Liverpool Arena. The most bonkers of the lot is Croatian outfit Let 3, *right*, who will be inflicting *Mama SC!* on the world's ears (along with its lyric "Mummy kissed the moron . . . ninja Armageddon granny"). Described by our critic Ed Potton as an "attempt to combine Queen-style operatic rock with Yello-style Europop" their look has also been compared to "a fascist Village People". And they have, apparently, also been known to play in the nude. If Spotify streams are anything to go by, the UK's entry, Mae Muller's *I Wrote a Song* should (at the time of writing) come in sixth, so you might want to put your money on the favourite, Sweden's Loreen, the Eurovision 2012 winner, and her catchy number, *Tattoo*. A very long evening begins with a performance from last year's winners Kalush Orchestra and their song *Voices of a New Generation*. The results will be decided by juries and viewers and proceedings will be overseen once again by Graham Norton, who is joined by Hannah Waddingham (of *Ted Lasso* fame), Alesha Dixon and the Ukrainian singer Julia Sanina. Once the warbling begins, you'll have to provide your own earplugs.
Ben Dowell



Falklands War: The Untold Story
Channel 4, 7.30pm

This documentary was first shown last year to mark the 40th anniversary of a conflict in which Britain sent nearly 30,000 soldiers, sailors and aircrew 8,000 miles to the South Atlantic — the biggest amphibious operation it had undertaken since D-Day. Veterans speak about the mistakes that were made. "The whole chain of command was utterly dysfunctional," a former officer says. Soldiers nearly shot down a Chinook full of comrades, we are told, and rations meant for one day had to be stretched to three; some drank water from puddles. **BD**

1000% Me: Growing Up Mixed
Sky Documentaries/Now, 7.45pm

A sweet young girl is asked by the film-maker and comedian W Kamau Bell what ingredients make her up. "Black, Asian and love," she replies. "And a llama and a corgi." It's a moment that is emblematic of the cheery if slightly cutesy tone of a film packed with lots of affirmative talk about identity from adults and children. Overall it touches on a very important subject in an increasingly diverse America: what do the children of interracial parents think? And how can their parents fully understand their unique perspective on the world? **BD**

The Lost Stonehenge
Channel 5, 8pm

Fresh theories about neolithic sites come around so often that it's as though they keep time with the solstice — summer and winter. Still, the far past holds a powerful grip on our imaginations, and this pleasant programme examines a possible henge under the sea off the coast of northern Israel. The settlement, which has a stone circle, is possibly 9,000 years old and might be, the programme suggests, the first of its kind and the "seed" of the whole idea. With 50,000 circles in western Europe alone, it was a trend that certainly took off. **BD**

Inspector Montalbano
BBC4, 9pm

A welcome repeat of *The Catalanotti Method*, the last Sicilian adventure for Luca Zingaretti's sharp-suited, food-loving, coffee-guzzling copper based on the Andrea Camilleri books. This episode begins when Inspector M's deputy Mimi Augello (Cesare Bocci) is disturbed (we presume by a returning husband) during congress with a mistress. After shimmying off a balcony he stumbles into a nearby apartment, where he finds a body on a bed. The detectives are then called to a scene where another man is lying in an almost identical fashion. **BD**

Films of the day

Mrs Harris Goes to Paris (PG, 2022)
Sky Cinema Premiere/Now, 6pm

Anthony Fabian's featherlight feelgood comedy about the zany adventures of a loveable self-described London charwoman, played by Lesley Manville, *below*. Ada Harris is a cleaning lady and war widow who in 1957 embarks on a trip to Paris to buy a £500 Christian Dior dress. The film is, however, embedded with the issues of the day, featuring strikes, poverty, social upheaval, income disparity, fiscal mismanagement and even the British appreciation of a queue. Fabian includes scenes of marching workers, angry placards and a beautifully framed shot of Sacré-Coeur Basilica with a decomposing mound of detritus in the foreground. The dress is a McGuffin that permits Harris to travel through Paris, dazzling its society with her Cockney ways — think *Pygmalion* energy, but in reverse. (111min) **Kevin Maher**



Far From the Madding Crowd (12, 2015)
BBC2, 8.05pm

A glowing Carey Mulligan illuminates the screen as Bathsheba Everdene in this lush adaptation of Thomas Hardy's novel by David Nicholls (*One Day*, *Us*). The 1874 novel has a most modern heroine in Bathsheba, a tenacious young woman who inherits a farm and house and resolves to run the show alone. "I have no need of a husband," she declares. But Hardy has other plans for her, and fate intervenes in the form of three handsome suitors: Gabriel Oak, a farmer of sense and sensibility played by Matthias Schoenaerts; William Boldwood, an uptight, upright landowner played by Michael Sheen; and Sergeant Frank Troy, a scarlet-clad cad played by Tom Sturridge — choices, choices. (114min) **Kate Muir**

Catch up

A Small Light
Disney+

Have you heard of Hermine "Miep" Gies? Maybe, maybe not, but either way *A Small Light* — an appealing new drama about the woman who helped to shelter Anne Frank and others for years — is well overdue. As Miep, Bel Powley, *right*, is terrific, her wide eyes and demonstrative features supercharging the whole thing. Miep was, after all, a young woman with such idealism and all-round moxie that she supplied medicine and provisions to the Frank family and four other Dutch Jews (eight people in total) as they hid in the secret annexe above the office of Otto Frank's spice company. Joe Cole plays Jan, Miep's future husband, with Liev Schrieber bringing some measured gravitas as Otto. Powley's energy will hopefully help to parlay Miep's story to a younger audience.
James Jackson



Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 1.15pm** Bargain Hunt. Anita Manning looks after proceedings today from two antiques centres in Sawbridgeworth **2.15** Eurovision Calling: Jason and Chelcee's Ultimate Guide (r) **3.15** The Weakest Link (r) **4.00-4.30pm** Rewind: 60 Years of Welsh Pop: Eurovision Special (r)
● **BBC2 Wales As BBC2 except: 6.35pm** Snowdonia: A Year on the Farm. As summer makes way for autumn, the farmers of Eryri reap the fruits of their labour (r) **7.05-7.35pm** Beechgrove Garden. George Anderson trials new blueberry bushes (r)
● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 4.30-5.15pm** Sportscene Results. A round-up of the afternoon's football news **12.20am** Sportscene: Premiership Highlights. Action from the latest games (r) **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.55-6.00am** BBC News
● **STV As ITV1 except: 6.20-6.30pm** STV News **10.40 FILM Fast & Furious 6 (2013) 1.00am** Teleshopping **3.00-4.15am** Night Vision. News, sport and weather
● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** The Seven **7.15** The Edit **7.30** Sportscene: Premiership Highlights **9.00** Aberdeen '83: Once in a Lifetime (r) **10.00** Robbie Coltrane at the BBC (r) **10.50** Best of Chewin' the Fat (r) **11.15** Short Stuff (r) **11.30** One More Tune **11.45pm-Midnight** Rewind 1980s (r)
● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw: Og y Draenog Hapus (r) **6.10** Jamborî (r) **6.20** Pablo (r) **6.35** Y Brodyr Coala (r) **6.45** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **7.00** Sali Mali (r) **7.05** Digbi Draig (r) **7.15** Gwdihw (r) **7.30** Sion y Chef (r) **7.45** Deian a Loli (r) **8.00** Angelo am Byth (r) **8.10** Lolipop (r) **8.35** Cath-Od (r) **8.45** Seligo (r) **8.50** Bwystfil (r) **9.00** Rhyfeddodau Chwilengoch a Cath Ddu (r) **9.20** Oi! Osgar (r) **9.30** Dennis a Dannedd (r) **9.40** Gwrach y Rhibyn (r) **10.00** Dau Gi Bach (r) **10.30** Natur a Ni (r) **11.00** Codi Pac (r) **11.30** Sgwrs Dan y Lloer (r) **12.00** Ffermio (r) **12.30pm** Prosiect Pum Mil (r) **1.30** Y Fets (r) **2.30** Bwyd Bach Shumana a Catrin (r) **3.00** Garddio a Mwy (r) **3.30** Hen Dy Newydd (r) **4.30** Sain Ffagan (r) **5.00** Live Sgorio. The JD Cymru Premier play-off final, as the teams contest a European place. (Kick-off **5.15**) **7.25** C'mon Midffild. The team are challenged by Brynaber (r) **8.00** News **8.15** Am Dro! Keen competitors take on notable walks (r) **9.15** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia. Action from stage eight **10.00** Welsh Whisperer: Ni'n Teithio Nawr! The Welsh Whisperer travels to Powys and to the village of Llanfyllin (r) **10.30-11.35** Curadur (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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Saturday 13

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **10.00** Saturday Kitchen Live **11.30** Mary Berry: Love to Cook (r) **12.00** Football Focus **1.00pm** BBC News; Weather **1.15** Bargain Hunt (r) **2.00** Escape to the Country (r) **2.45** Eurovision Calling: Jason and Chelcee's Ultimate Guide (r) **3.45** The Weakest Link (r) **4.30** Final Score This afternoon's football results **5.15** BBC News **5.40** BBC Regional News; Weather **5.50** Pointless Celebrities. Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present a special Eurovision episode of the star-studded general knowledge quiz **6.40** The Hit List: Eurovision Special. New series. Special Eurovision episode of the music quiz show, hosted by Marvin and Rochelle Humes, in which Scott Mills, Clara Amfo and Adele Roberts team up with the contestants



Ab Fab: The Movie (12.20am)

7.30 The One Show Alex Jones and Rylan are live in Liverpool with this curtain-raiser to the Eurovision Song Contest

8.00 Eurovision Song Contest 2023 Graham Norton, Hannah Waddingham, Alesha Dixon and Julia Sanina present the 67th annual song competition from Liverpool, with singer-songwriter Mae Muller representing the UK with *I Wrote a Song*. The show also features performances from last year's first and second place acts, Ukraine's Kalush Orchestra and the UK's Sam Ryder, as well as a celebration of the host city's incredible contribution to the world of pop music featuring six past Eurovision winners — including Sonia. Graham shares commentary duties with Mel Giedroyc. **See Viewing Guide**

12.00 BBC News **12.18am** Weather **12.20** FILM **Absolutely Fabulous: The Movie (15, 2016)** Comedy based on the BBC sitcom, starring Jennifer Saunders, Joanna Lumley and Julia Sawalha **1.45** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.50** BBC News

BBC2

6.50am Hey Duggee (r) **6.55** Hey Duggee (r) **7.05** Supertato (r) **7.10** Shaun the Sheep (r) **7.20** Dennis & Gnasher Unleashed! (r) **7.30** Boy Girl Dog Cat Mouse Cheese (r) **7.45** The Deep (r) **8.05** Odd Squad (r) **8.20** OOglies Funsize (r) **8.25** OZT Goes Wild in Britain (r) **8.50** Newsround (r) **9.00** Blue Peter (r) **9.30** Deadly Predators (r) **10.00 Born in China (PG, 2016)** Wildlife documentary **11.15** The Mating Game: Natural World Special (r) **12.00** Family Cooking Showdown (r) **1.00pm** FILM **Summer Holiday (U, 1963)** Starring Cliff Richard **2.45** Natural World: Attenborough's Fabulous Frogs (r) **3.45** Race Across the World (r) **4.45** Flog It! (r) **5.35** Celebrity Antiques Road Trip (r) **6.35** Hidden Treasures of the National Trust. The UK's historic homes (r)



Carey Mulligan stars (8.05pm)

7.35 Dad's Army First-ever episode of the classic comedy starring Arthur Lowe (1/6) (b/w) (r)

8.05 FILM **Far from the Madding Crowd (12, 2015)** A headstrong Victorian woman inherits a sheep farm in a remote area of Dorset. She struggles to maintain her independence while being courted by three very different men — a stoic farmer, a dashing, reckless soldier and a lonely older man. Period drama, with Carey Mulligan and Matthias Schoenaerts. **See Film Choice**

10.00 Match of the Day Gary Lineker presents highlights of the latest Premier League matches, including Leeds United v Newcastle United at Elland Road and Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur at Villa Park

11.20 Live at the Apollo Zoe Lyons introduces fellow comedians Ria Lina and Tom Ward to the stage at London's Hammersmith Apollo. All three share their views on life (3/6) (r)

12.05am Sam Ryder Rocks. A New Year's Eve concert by the Eurovision star and guests (r) **1.05** Pride Hits at the BBC. A musical celebration of Pride (r) **2.05-3.40** FILM **Who You Think I Am (15, 2018)** Drama starring Juliette Binoche and Nicole Garcia

ITV1

6.00am CITV **8.25** ITV News **8.30** Oti Mabuse's Breakfast Show **9.25** James Martin's Saturday Morning **11.35** John and Lisa's Weekend Kitchen **12.40pm** ITV News; Weather **1.00** Live Extreme E: The Hydro X-Prix. Coverage of race one of the second meeting of the campaign, which comes from Dumfries and Galloway **3.00** You've Been Framed! (r) **3.30** Tipping Point: Best Ever Finals. Endgames from the arcade-themed quiz show hosted by Ben Shephard (r) **4.00** FILM **Peter Pan (PG, 2003)** The boy who never grows old whisks Wendy Darling and her brothers away on an adventure to the magical world of Neverland. Fantasy starring Jeremy Sumpter **6.05** ITV News; Weather **6.20** Regional News; Weather **6.30** In for a Penny. Stephen Mulhern hosts



The fantasy yarn Peter Pan (4pm)

7.00 In with a Shout A family from Northampton and a clan from Southampton try to answer questions, the correct responses to which are hidden within a montage of moving images displayed on TV screens. Last in the series

8.00 FILM **Jurassic World: Fallen Kingdom (12, 2018)** Three years after the destruction of Jurassic World, Owen Grady and Claire Dearing are asked to return to the theme park to save its resident dinosaurs from the island's active volcano. During their mission, they uncover a conspiracy that may affect the entire planet. Action sequel starring Chris Pratt, Bryce Dallas Howard and Toby Jones

10.20 ITV News

10.40 FILM **Total Recall (15, 1990)** A construction worker pays to have fake memories of a dream holiday to Mars implanted into his brain, but discovers his mind has already been tampered with — apparently to erase his true identity as a secret agent from a colony on the Red Planet. Sci-fi thriller starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Rachel Ticotin and Michael Ironside

12.45am Teleshopping **3.00** Unwind with ITV **4.15** Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh. The presenter celebrates the coronation with singer Sheila Ferguson, royal composer Debbie Wiseman and *Gosford Park* actor Adrian Scarborough (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.00am Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **6.20** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **6.45** Everybody Loves Raymond (r) **7.10** The King of Queens (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.30** Frasier (r) **9.00** Frasier (r) **9.30** The Simpsons (r) **10.00** The Simpsons (r) **10.25** The Simpsons (r) **10.55** The Simpsons (r) **11.25** The Simpsons (r) **11.50** The Simpsons (r) **12.15pm** The Simpsons (r) **12.45** Live Betfred Super League Rugby: St Helens v Salford Red Devils (Kick-off **1.00**). Helen Skelton presents all the action from the match at Totally Wicked Stadium **3.15** Four in a Bed. Back-to-back editions of the B&B challenge (r) **6.00** Channel 4 News **6.30** Raising the Mary Rose: The Lost Tapes. A look back at the raising of Henry VIII's flagship in 1982 (r)



The Untold Falklands War (7.30pm)

7.30 Falklands War: The Untold Story Documentary examining the Falklands conflict 40 years on. The head of the SAS in the Falklands, Sir Michael Rose, speaks publicly for the first time about the war, and how the British task force came close to defeat. **See Viewing Guide** (r)

9.00 FILM **Jack Reacher: Never Go Back (12, 2016)** The nomadic vigilante tries to save an army major who has been framed for murder and treason. Jack Reacher discovers that Turner has been targeted by a secret government conspiracy, and together they go on the run to expose the truth. Director Edward Zwick's blockbusting action thriller sequel based on Lee Child's novel, starring Tom Cruise, Cobie Smulders, Danika Yarosh and Aldis Hodge

11.20 FILM **xXx: The Return of Xander Cage (12, 2017)** The spy is brought out of exile to retrieve a powerful weapon that has been stolen by a lethal gang of mercenaries. Thriller starring Vin Diesel and Donnie Yen

1.20am The Simpsons (r) **1.45** The Simpsons (r) **2.10** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **3.00** Hollyoaks Omnibus (r) (SL) **5.05** The Great British Dig: History in Your Back Garden (r) **5.55** Cheers. Sitcom (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **10.00** The Smurfs **10.10** Entertainment News on 5 **10.20** FILM **Escape to Victory (PG, 1981)** Allied PoWs take on the Nazis in a propagandist football match, but plan to escape during the game. Adventure starring Michael Caine **12.45pm** FILM **The Dam Busters (U, 1955)** An engineer designs an ingenious bouncing bomb to destroy major dams in Germany. Fact-based drama, with Michael Redgrave (b/w) **3.20** FILM **Enemy of the State (15, 1998)** An encounter with an old friend derails a lawyer's life as he ends up framed for murder and pursued by government agents. Thriller starring Will Smith and Gene Hackman **6.00** 5 News Weekend **6.10** Kensington Palace: Upstairs, Downstairs. An intimate look at the royal residence (r)



Insights into Stonehenge (8pm)

8.00 The Lost Stonehenge: An Ancient Mystery Documentary about discovery of a submerged, 9,000-year-old stone circle off the coast of Israel that may reveal insights into the origins of Stonehenge. **See Viewing Guide**

9.00 Tutankhamun's Tomb: The Discovery with Dan Snow The history of the exploration of Egypt's Valley of the Kings, including the search for Tutankhamun's Tomb and the race between teams to unearth long-buried treasures (r)

10.25 FILM **The Magnificent Seven (12, 2016)** A remote frontier town falls under the control of a ruthless industrialist, who uses the locals as forced labour in his mines. A woman goes in search of help, recruiting a band of seven hired guns to protect the town and train the people to fight back. Remake of the classic Western, starring Denzel Washington, Chris Pratt, and Vincent D'Onofrio

1.00am Teleshopping **3.00** Walking Britain's Lost Railways (r) **3.50** Cruising (r) (SL) **4.35** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.40** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.45** Paw Patrol (r) (SL)

Saturday 13 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview FS Freesat



Jackie Stewart
Documentary about the Scottish Formula 1 legend, who won three world titles
Sky Documentaries, 9pm

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am Cristo
7.00 David Bull The biggest stories of the day
10.00 Peter Cardwell The Westminster insider scours the latest news from Parliament, featuring exclusive interviews
1.00pm Trisha Goddard The broadcaster looks through the week's leading stories
4.00 Kevin O'Sullivan The host tackles the day's big stories, champions free speech
7.00 Saturday Night Talkaway with Andre Walker The host offers his unique take on the week's top stories, guests and non-stop chat
9.00 That Was The Woke That Was Andre Walker quizzes the panel on the wokest stories of the week
10.00-1.00am Live: James Whale The presenter reacts to the big stories of the day

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm EastEnders
7.30 EastEnders Alfie tells Stacey that he is moving out
8.00 Top Gear Chris Evans and Matt LeBlanc pit the latest Rolls Royce against a classic model (5/6)
9.00 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Louise gets Jonny into trouble (8/8)
9.30 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Donna and Gaz's relationship begins to look shaky (1/14)
10.00 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Donna inherits a house (2/14)
10.30 Two Pints of Lager and a Packet of Crisps Janet reveals her pregnancy (3/14)
11.00 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star Leomie Anderson presents as the competitors are tested on the set of *Bridgerton* (1/8)
12.00-1.00am Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (2/8)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Sahara with Michael Palin The final leg of the journey. Last in the series (4/4)
8.00 Himalaya with Michael Palin In the village of Lekhani in Nepal, Michael watches potential Gurkha recruits being put through their paces (3/6)
9.00 Inspector Montalbano Feature-length final episode of the Italian crime drama. Montalbano grapples with the murder of the leader of an amateur dramatics company with a peculiar take on theatre. **See Viewing Guide**
11.00 The Bermuda Triangle: Beneath the Waves Bruce Denardo explores the legend of the region where many planes and ships have disappeared in mysterious circumstances
12.00-1.00am David Attenborough: A Life on Air

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Car S.O.S. Tim and Fuzz take on a 1988 Fiat Uno Turbo belonging to a car salesman, who has been struck with ill health (1/10)
8.00 24 Hours in A&E Eight-year-old Billy is rushed to St George's after being crushed by falling bricks that were being stored on his front drive
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A man is brought into hospital after falling 20 feet through a skylight onto concrete
10.00 24 Hours in A&E A 52-year-old woman who suffers from MS is brought in with suspected sepsis, and a woman is in A&E after falling down the stairs.
11.05-12.10am 8 Out of 10 Cats Does Countdown Christmas Special Johnny Vegas and Sean Lock take on Jon Richardson and Katherine Ryan

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.45pm True Blood Sookie decides to search for Bill in Jackson and Eric instructs Alcide Herveaux to protect her. Meanwhile, Lafayette is surprised when he receives a gift from his vampire patron (3/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Theon embarks on a hunt as he tries to prove his Ironborn status. Daenerys receives a useful invitation, and Jaime Lannister meets a relative among Robb Stark's captives (7/10) (R)
9.00 Game of Thrones Robb Stark discovers he has been betrayed by one of his closest friends. Arya calls in a debt, and Daenerys' hunger for the Iron Throne prompts her to ignore Jorah Mormont's advice (8/10) (R)
10.05 Game of Thrones (9/10) (R)
11.10-12.20am Game of Thrones Fantasy drama (10/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

5.30pm Rise of the Superheroes A look at how the tales of comic book superheroes like Batman and the Avengers were adapted for cinema before going on to dominate Hollywood and captivate audiences worldwide (R)
7.45 1000% Me: Growing Up Mixed Comedian W Kamau Bell tackles the joys and challenges of growing up mixed-race in the San Francisco Bay Area. **See Viewing Guide**
9.00 Jackie Stewart Documentary about Formula 1 great Jackie Stewart, from his humble beginnings outside Glasgow to winning three World Drivers' Championships (R)
10.55-12.40am Never Surrender: A Galaxy Quest Documentary A celebration of the 20th anniversary of the sci-fi (R)

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

6.55pm FILM Yes Man (12, 2008) A downtrodden man has his life transformed when he decides to say yes to every opportunity. Comedy based on the book by Danny Wallace starring Jim Carrey and Zooey Deschanel
9.00 FILM Fast & Furious 7 (12, 2015) A rogue special forces assassin seeks revenge against Dom, Brian and their crew for putting his brother in a coma. Action thriller starring Vin Diesel
11.45-12.15am Family Guy

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

7.00pm Midsomer Murders Barnaby and Jones investigate when a woman is stabbed to death in a churchyard two years after the death of her husband
9.00 Midsomer Murders A land dispute leads to murder
11.00 Kate & Koji Kate is suspicious when her lifelong enemy decides to make amends (5/6)
11.30 Kate & Koji Kate decides to enter politics (6/6)
12.00-12.35am Bless This House Jean's sister visits (7/12)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

7.10pm FILM Smokey and the Bandit II (PG, 1980) The maverick trucker undertakes the mammoth task of transporting a pregnant elephant to Texas, with an old enemy in hot pursuit. Road comedy starring Burt Reynolds
9.05 FILM Conan the Barbarian (15, 1982) Fantasy adventure starring Arnold Schwarzenegger
11.40-12.40am FILM Maximum Conviction (15, 2012) Action adventure starring Steven Seagal, Steve Austin and Michael Pare

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

6.40pm The Big Bang Theory
7.15 FILM Shrek the Third (U, 2007) The bad-tempered ogre must persuade a rebellious teenager to face up to his responsibilities as heir to the throne. Animated sequel with the voices of Mike Myers and Cameron Diaz
9.00 Celebrity Gogglebox Shows including *Love Island* and *Alan Carr's Epic Gameshow: Celebrity Special* are appraised (3/6)
10.00 Gogglebox
11.05-12.10am Gogglebox

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Red Bull Soapbox Race The amateur race arrives into Valkenburg aan de Geul in the Netherlands
8.00 Not Going Out Lucy is forced to look after her god-daughter
8.40 Not Going Out A missing toy keyring leads to a rift with Toby and Anna. Comedy with Lee Mack
9.20 Not Going Out Bloopers Special Unscripted moments
10.00 Mock the Week
10.40 Mock the Week
11.20-12.20am QI XL

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.00pm The Brokenwood Mysteries A groom-to-be is shot dead on a hunting trip
8.00 Father Brown The sleuth races to protect a crown that contains a nail from the crucifixion of Christ. Mark Williams stars
9.00 In the Dark Five months after the Polesford case, Helen is still battling with the fallout from her infidelity. Starring MyAnna Buring
10.20-12.35am Rebus The gruff detective investigates a colleague's link to a convicted paedophile

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Great American Railroad Journeys Michael Portillo begins a journey across Alaska (1/10)
8.00 Great American Railroad Journeys Scientists study the Northern Lights (2/10)
9.00 Great American Railroad Journeys Alaska to Canada (3/10)
10.00 One Foot in the Grave The Meldrews return from a holiday
10.40 One Foot in the Grave
11.20 One Foot in the Grave
12.00-1.00am Bangers and Cash A rare Honda S800 sports car (7/10)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.20pm Heroes on Deck: World War Two on Lake Michigan The story of how the US Navy trained more than 15,000 carrier pilots on passenger steamers
7.35 The Atom and Us
8.45 KGB: The Sword and the Shield The history of the KGB (1/3)
9.50 KGB: The Sword and the Shield KGB bounces back (2/3)
10.55 KGB: The Sword and the Shield Risking life and limb (3/3)
12.00-1.15am Heroes on Deck: World War Two on Lake Michigan

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Simon & Garfunkel: Concert in Central Park The duo's 1981 reunion concert
9.00 Queen: Live at Wembley Stadium A 1986 concert featuring the band's renditions of classic hits
10.20 The Story of Bohemian Rhapsody Richard E Grant narrates the story of the classic Queen song
11.40-1.00am FILM Freddie Mercury: The Untold Story (12, 2000) Profile of the singer, from his beginnings in Zanzibar and Feltham through to his death

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm UFOs Declassified Investigating reports of silvery objects above Los Angeles in 1942
8.00 UFOs Declassified Flying objects spotted above military bases during the Cold War (2/6)
9.00 History's Greatest Myths New series. Groundbreaking discoveries, inventions and inventors throughout history
10.00 History's Greatest Mysteries Ernest Shackleton's lost ship. (1/4)
11.30 Storage Wars
12.00-12.30am Storage Wars

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Hawaii Five-0 Kono and Chin go undercover as art buyers
8.00 Fast & Furious: Greatest Moments Refuelled Fans' favourite moments from the movie franchise
9.00 Flintoff: Lord of the Fries Andrew Flintoff and Rob Penn explore the West Country (3/6)
10.00 A League of Their Own: European Road Trip (4/6)
11.00 Bel-Air Will alienates himself from the basketball team. (2/10)
11.55-12.40am Never Mind the Buzzcocks Music quiz (6/7)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Lost Gold of the Dark Ages: Treasure Hoard Experts reveal what they have learned about the middle ages
8.00 Egypt's Treasure Guardians
9.00 Egypt's Sun King: Secrets and Treasures Experts explore the first tomb containing a body
10.00 Lost Treasures of the Maya The team reveal a sacred alter (1/4)
11.00 Lost Treasures of the Maya Evidence of human sacrifice (2/4)
12.00-1.00am Lost Treasures of the Maya City of El Palmar (3/4)

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Deadliest Catch A new deckhand falls ill on the Time Bandit, raising questions for Andy
8.00 Arctic Ice Railroad
9.00 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail
10.00 Estonia Documentary
11.00 How the Universe Works
12.00-2.00am Alaska: Homestead Rescue Misty builds a garden

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm The Office (US) (2/6)
7.30 The Office (US)
8.00 The Office (US)
8.30 The Office (US)
9.00 Barry (5/8)
9.35 Curb Your Enthusiasm (7/10)
10.10 Curb Your Enthusiasm (8/10)
10.45-12.45am Micky Flanagan: An' Another Fing Live Stand-up

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

5.40pm FILM Nacho Libre (12, 2006) Comedy starring Jack Black
7.25 FILM Billy Madison (12, 1995) Comedy starring Adam Sandler
9.00 FILM You, Me and Dupree (12, 2006) Starring Owen Wilson
11.00-12.55am FILM Jackass 3 (18, 2010) Comedy starring Johnny Knoxville and Ryan Dunn

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Only Fools and Horses
7.40 Only Fools and Horses
8.20 Only Fools and Horses Christmas Special
9.00 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
9.40 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
10.25 Chewing Gum
11.00 Chewing Gum
11.31-12.10am Absolutely Fabulous

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

6.40pm My Family
7.20 My Family
8.00 Gavin & Stacey
8.40 Gavin & Stacey
9.20 Gavin & Stacey
10.00 Gavin & Stacey
10.40 Inside Spain's Narco Wars
11.40-12.50am Louis Theroux: The City Addicted to Crystal Meth

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators (3/9)
8.00 Inspector George Gently A black club-goer is murdered (1/4)
10.00 Miss Scarlet and the Duke Eliza finds the heir to an unclaimed fortune and needs Duke's help
11.00 My Life Is Murder (2/10)
12.00-1.00am Father Brown (8/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

9.00-10.00am Saturday Social
11.30 Live SPFL: Rangers v Celtic From Ibrox Stadium (Kick-off **12.30**)
3.00pm Live EFL A League One semi-final first-leg (Kick-off **3.00**)
5.15 Live EFL A Championship semi-final first-leg (Kick-off **5.30**)
7.30 Live EFL A League Two semi-final first-leg (Kick-off **7.45**)
10.30 Live PGA Tour Golf
11.00pm-12.00m't Live LPGA Tour Golf The Cognizant Founders Cup
2.00-5.30am Live Fight Night International At Stockton Arena

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

9.00-10.00am Saturday Social An alternative insight into the game
7.00pm David James: The One and Only
8.30 Game of the Day A full 90-minute rerun of one of the Saturday afternoon fixtures
10.30 PL Highlights Action from Crystal Palace v Bournemouth
11.00 PL Highlights Action from Southampton v Fulham
11.30-12.00m't PL Highlights Action from Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur



Owen Wilson stars in the 2006 comedy You, Me and Dupree (Comedy Central, 9pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

10.55am Live County Championship Cricket: Surrey v Middlesex Action from the second day of the Division 1 match from The Kia Oval, London
6.30pm Captain's Log
7.30 Captain's Log
8.00 IPL Sunrisers Hyderabad v Lucknow Super Giants
9.00 IPL Delhi v Punjab
10.00 County Championship Cricket Surrey v Middlesex
11.00-12.00m't IPL Highlights of Hyderabad v Lucknow

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

8.00am Live Isuzu UTE A-League
10.00-10.30 Live Early Kick-Off
11.30 Live Premier League: Leeds United v Newcastle United From Elland Road (Kick-off **12.30**)
3.00pm Live National League
6.15 BT Sport Films
7.30 No Filter Football
7.45 Live Ligue 1 (Kick-off **8.00**)
10.00 WWE Friday Night SmackDown Wrestling
11.30 MLB: Off The Bat
12.00-3.30am Live MLB
4.00-7.00am Live AFL

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

7.30-8.30am Live World Rally Championship
8.45 Live MotoGP (Start-time **9.50**)
11.00 Live MotoE
11.45 Live MotoGP Moto3 and Moto2 qualifying (Start-time **11.50**)
1.30pm Live MotoGP France sprint race (Start-time **2.00**)
3.00-5.45 Live Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union
6.00 Live UFC
8.00 Live UFC
11.30-12.00m't World Rally Championship

Saturday 13

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Hotel for Dogs (U, 2009) Comedy with Emma Roberts and Jake T Austin **1.05pm Barnyard (PG, 2006)** Animated comedy with the voice of Kevin James **2.50 Failure to Launch (12, 2006)** Romantic comedy with Matthew McConaughey **4.40 Tooth Fairy (PG, 2010)** Family comedy with Dwayne Johnson and Ashley Judd **6.45 Star Trek: Nemesis (12, 2002)** Sci-fi adventure starring Patrick Stewart **9.00 The Book of Eli (15, 2010)** Action adventure starring Denzel Washington **11.15-1.20am Minor Premise (15, 2020)** Premiere. Sci-fi thriller with Sathya Sridharan

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Jail Bait (PG, 1954) Crime drama starring Lyle Talbot and Dolores Fuller **7.25 Target Earth (PG, 1954)** Sci-fi with Richard Denning and Kathleen Crowley **9.00 The Adventures of Sir Lancelot** Arthurian adventure **9.30 Lionheart (U, 1968)** Drama starring James Forlong **10.35 The Buccaneers 11.05 The Phantom Empire 11.30 Fury** Western drama **12.00 Planet Outlaws (PG, 1953)** Buck Rogers adventure starring Buster Crabbe **1.25pm The Outer Limits 2.25 The Day the Earth Caught Fire (PG, 1961)** Sci-fi thriller starring Edward Judd **4.25 Terminus 5.00 San Ferry Ann (U, 1965)** Comedy starring Wilfrid Brambell and Joan Sims **6.05 Night Mail (U, 1936)** Documentary following a mail train to Scotland from London **6.30 Ghost Ship (U, 1952)** Horror starring Hazel Court **8.00 Maigret 9.00 The Four Just Men 9.30 Stop Me Before I Kill! (18, 1960)** Thriller starring Ronald Lewis and Diane Cilento **11.30-1.45am Room at the Top (15, 1959)** Drama starring Laurence Harvey, Simone Signoret and Heather Sears

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Real Murders: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2015) Whodunit starring Candace Cameron Bure **10.40 I Almost Married A Serial Killer (12, 2019)** Thriller starring Krista Allen **12.30pm Pixels (12, 2015)** Sci-fi comedy starring Adam Sandler and Peter Dinklage **2.35 Annie (PG, 2014)** Musical remake starring Quvenzhane Wallis and Jamie Foxx **5.00 November Criminals (12, 2017)** Mystery drama starring Ansel Elgort



The thriller Manhattan Night (GREAT! Movies, 9pm)

6.45 Terminator Salvation (12, 2009) Sci-fi thriller sequel starring Christian Bale and Sam Worthington **9.00 Manhattan Night (15, 2016)** Thriller starring Adrien Brody and Yvonne Strahovski **11.15-2.00am Free State of Jones (15, 2016)** American Civil War drama starring Matthew McConaughey

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am Off Set 6.25 Beau Brummell (U, 1954) Drama with Stewart Granger **8.45 The Plunderers (PG, 1960)** Western starring Jeff Chandler and John Saxon **10.40 The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (PG, 1948)** Western with Humphrey Bogart and Walter Huston **1.15pm Vengeance Valley (PG, 1951)** Western starring Burt Lancaster and Robert Walker **3.00 Will Penny (12, 1967)** Western starring Charlton Heston and Joan Hackett **5.15 The Train Robbers (U, 1973)** Western starring John Wayne and Rod Taylor **7.10 The Ladykillers (U, 1955)** Black comedy starring Alec Guinness and Peter Sellers **9.00 Absolute Power (15, 1997)** Thriller starring Clint Eastwood and Gene Hackman **11.30-1.25am 24 Hours to Live (15, 2017)** Sci-fi thriller starring Ethan Hawke and Qing Xu

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.05pm Dead Shot (15, 2023) Thriller starring Colin Morgan **2.05 The Old Way (15, 2023)** Western starring Nicolas Cage and Ryan Kiera Armstrong **3.45 Nope (15, 2022)** Sci-fi thriller starring Daniel Kaluuya and Keke Palmer **6.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Premiere. Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville. **See Film Choice 8.00 Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Colin Morgan **10.00 Ticket to Paradise (12, 2022)** Comedy romance starring George Clooney **11.50-1.50am Resurrection (18, 2022)** Thriller starring Rebecca Hall and Tim Roth

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

6.00am Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Hugo Rifkind **1.00pm** Alexis Conran. BBC-nominated 'Best Jazz Vocalist' Polly Gibbons gives a live studio performance ahead of her album debut **4.00** Ayesha Hazarika **7.00** My Cultural Week with Mariella Frostrup **8.00** Stories of Our Times **8.30** Best of Matt Chorley **9.00** Highlights from Times Radio **10.00** Darryl Morris **1.00am** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

5.00am Radio 2 in Concert: Michael Bolton (r) **6.00** Sounds of the 60s with Tony Blackburn **8.00** Dermot O'Leary **10.00** Claudia Winkleman **1.00pm** Your Ultimate UK Eurovision Song **3.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor's Kitchen Disco (r) **6.00** All Request Eurovision Party **8.00** Eurovision Song Contest Grand Final. Scott Mills and Rylan present the event direct from the Liverpool Arena **11.00** OJ Borg's Eurovision After Party **2.00am** Dance Sounds of the 90s with Vernon Kay **3.00** Let It Grow with Liza Tarbuck **4.00** Pick of the Pops

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

7.00am Breakfast 9.00 Record Review 11.45 Music Matters 12.30pm This Classical Life Jess Gillam chats to folk musician Hazel Askew **1.00 Inside Music** Soprano Lise Davidsen chooses pieces by singers who have inspired her **3.00 Sound of Cinema** Music from films tackling the issue of over populaton **4.00 Music Planet** The latest releases and a look at the winners of this year's Songlines Music Awards **5.00 J to Z** Kevin Le Gendre presents a live session by the French vibraphonist Simon Moullier, while saxophonist Soweto Kinch shares his musical inspirations **6.30 Opera on 3** Debra Lew Harder presents a New York Metropolitan Opera production of Puccini's *La Bohème* starring Eleonora Buratto as Mimì and Stephen Costello as Rodolfo **10.00 New Music Show** The second day of Tectonics Glasgow, including BBC SSO commissions by William Dougherty, Ingrid Laubrock and Margriet Hoenderdos **12.00 Freeness** Corey Mwamba presents improvised music of intrepid spirit that thrives on and challenges chaos, featuring perfromances by Thermal, and Richard Belfit **1.00am Through the Night** (r)

Today's pick

Turning Point
Radio 4, 3pm

The first of a collection of dramas illuminating historical turning points is Ryan Craig's *First of Millions*, telling the story behind the birth of the first IVF baby. At its heart is the working relationship between the physiologist Robert Edwards (Vincent Franklin, *right*) and the obstetrician Patrick Steptoe (Pip Torrens). Mavericks who came into conflict with their superiors, they conducted much of their research in a makeshift laboratory at the Oldham hospital where Steptoe worked, and where John and Lesley Brown (Luke Allen-Gale and Katy Sobey) were finally to become parents. Ben Dowell



Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Please Protect Abraham Retracing the events of a night that changed lives (r) **6.00 News and Papers 6.07 Open Country** (6/6) (r) **6.30 Farming Today This Week** Agriculture **7.00 Today 9.00 Saturday Live 10.00 Your Place or Mine 10.30 The Kitchen Cabinet 11.00 The Week in Westminster** Political news **11.30 From Our Own Correspondent 12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 Money Box 12.30 The News Quiz** (r) **1.00 News 1.10 Any Questions?** (r) **2.00 Any Answers?** Phone-in **2.45 The Museums That Make Us** With Neil MacGregor (r) **3.00 Drama: Turning Point — First of Millions** Ryan Craig's fact-based medical drama about the pioneering research that led to the birth of the first IVF baby. **See Choice 4.00 Weekend Woman's Hour 5.00 Saturday PM 5.30 Political Thinking with Nick Robinson** New series **5.54 Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.15 Loose Ends** With guests David Baddiel, William Hartston, Priyanga Burford and Megan McCubbin **7.00 Profile 7.15 This Cultural Life** John Wilson with Gilbert & George **8.00 Archive on 4: Whatever Happened to JB Priestley** Stuart Maconie rekindles interest into the novelist **9.00 GF Newman's The Corrupted** (9/10) (r) **9.45 From Fact to Fiction** (r) **10.00 News 10.15 Bringing Up Britain** (r) **11.00 Round Britain Quiz** (r) **11.30 Uncanny 12.00 Midnight News 12.15am Bird Brain of Britain** One-off quiz special (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am 5 Live Boxing **6.00** Saturday Breakfast **9.00** Patrick Kielty **11.00** Fighting Talk **12.00** 5 Live Sport **3.00pm** 5 Live Sport **5.00** Sports Report **6.00** 6-0-6 **9.00** Stephen Nolan. Topical debate **12.00** Newscast **1.00am** Laura McGhie

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

6.00am GameDay Breakfast **9.00** GameDay Warm Up **11.00** GameDay Exclusive: Leeds United v Newcastle United (Kick-off **12.30**) **2.30pm** GameDay Live **5.30** The GameDay Phone-In **7.30** The Mark Goldbridge Show **9.00** Fight Night **12.00** A talkSPORT Special **1.00am** Extra Time with Martin Kelner

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am Cristo **7.00** David Bull **10.00** Peter Cardwell **1.00pm** Trisha Goddard **4.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **7.00** Saturday Night Talkaway **9.00** That Was The Woke That Was **10.00** James Whale **1.00am** Martin Kelner

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

7.30am On Truth Omnibus **8.35** Inheritance Tracks **8.45** The Fosdyke Saga **9.00** Benny Hill Time **9.30** Whack-O! **10.00** Writing: The Midlands **11.00** Hercule Poirot: After the Funeral **12.30pm** On Truth Omnibus **1.35** Inheritance Tracks **1.45** The Fosdyke Saga **2.00** Benny Hill Time **2.30** Whack-O! **3.00** Writing: The Midlands **4.00** The Lodestone **4.45** Someone Like You **5.00** Hercule Poirot: After the Funeral **6.30** On Truth Omnibus **7.35** Inheritance Tracks **7.45** The Fosdyke Saga **8.00** Benny Hill Time **8.30** Whack-O! **9.00** Writing: The Midlands. A literary tour **10.00** Comedy Club: Nick Mohammed in Bits **10.30** Mark Watson Makes the World Substantially Better **11.00** Vent **11.30** Life: An Idiot's Guide **12.00** Night Watch **12.30am** The Golden Apples of the Sun

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am News **9.06** BBC OS Conversations **9.30** Pick of the World **9.50** Over to You **10.00** News **10.06** Sports Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Healthcheck **12.00** News **12.06pm** World Questions **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.06** Sportsworld **6.00** The Newsroom **6.30** Dear Daughter **6.50** Sporting Witness **7.00** News **7.06** The Inquiry **7.30** Outlook **8.00** News **8.06** The Arts Hour **9.00** Newshour **10.06** Music Life **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Tech Tent **12.00** News **12.06am** BBC OS Conversations **12.30** Dear Daughter **12.50** Sporting Witness **1.00** News **1.06** The Science Hour **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Healthcheck **3.00** News **3.06** World Questions **4.00** News **4.06** From Our Own Correspondent. Global reports **4.30** Trending **4.50** Sporting Witness

6 Music
Digital only

6.00am Nabihah Iqbal **8.00** Radcliffe and Maconie **10.00** The Huey Show **1.00pm** Jamz Supernova on 6 **3.00** Gilles Peterson **6.00** The Craig Charles Funk and Soul Show **9.00** The Blessed Madonna **12.00** Lose Yourself With **2.00am** Late in the Day **4.00** The Morning After Mix

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.00am Amy Voce **9.30** The Graham Norton Radio Show **12.30pm** Stu Elmore **4.00** Tim Cocker **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Rich Williams **1.00am** Olivia Jones

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

7.00am Alan Titchmarsh **10.00** Aled Jones **1.00pm** Alexander Armstrong **4.00** Moira Stuart's Hall of Fame Concert. The host presents music to complement the season **7.00** Saturday Night at the Movies. Jonathan Ross celebrates soundtracks from iconic films and their remakes **9.00** David Mellor's Melodies. The host presents his favourite music inspired by spring **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Sam Pittis

Sunday 14 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Ten Pound Poms
BBC1, 9pm

The "Ten Pound Poms" were the Brits who settled in Australia in the postwar years, paying £10 for their voyage, which was subsidised by the Australian government if the emigrant stayed for at least two years. Many were attracted by the prospect of a new life offering sunshine, opportunity and an escape from rationing and a class-bound society. Most of the 1.5 million Britons who went loved their new home, but about a quarter returned home. This solid six-part drama, penned by Danny Brocklehurst (*Brassic*, *Ordinary Lies*), follows a group of Brits as they leave Britain in 1956 to embark on a life-changing adventure down under. We meet Terry Roberts (Warren Brown), a builder toiling in freezing conditions, who is traumatised by his experiences in the Second World War; then his wife, Annie (Faye Marsay), spots an ad for the £10 tickets and the couple leap at the chance of leaving with their two children (Hattie Hook and Finn Treacy, *right with Marsay and Brown*). "Goodbye rain, 'ello 300 days of sunshine a year," Terry says. If only it were that simple — they are soon turned into "whinging Poms" by poor conditions at the migrant hostel and hostile local attitudes towards immigrants. Also taking advantage of the assisted passage scheme is Kate (Michelle Keegan), a nurse travelling solo after her fiancé got "cold feet" (there's more to that story), and the teenager Stevie (Declan Coyle), who's trying to escape from his domineering father. Offering another perspective is Ron (Rob Collins), an indigenous Australian war veteran who is struggling with feeling like an outsider in his own country. Joe Clay



Match of the Day Live
BBC1, 1.50pm

Gabby Logan is your host at a sold-out Wembley Stadium as Chelsea take on Manchester United in the Women's FA Cup final (kick-off 2.30pm). Manchester United are in their first big final just five years after re-forming, but they will face a tough test against the four-time winners (and defending champions). This year's attendance at the final will be 40,000 higher than last year's — the previous record — when 49,094 fans watched Chelsea under their manager Emma Hayes lift yet another domestic trophy by beating Manchester City 3-2. **JC**

Bafta Television Awards 2023
BBC1, 7pm

Rob Beckett and Romesh Ranganathan present live coverage of the TV Baftas from the Royal Festival Hall in London. Leading the charge, with six nominations each, are the BBC dramas *This Is Going to Hurt* and *The Responder*. Could Kate Winslet snare a best actress gong for her performance in *I Am Ruth*? The Channel 4 production is also up for best single drama. At some point during the proceedings the presenter and historian David Olusoga will receive a well-deserved award for his outstanding contribution to television. **JC**

Challenge Anneka
Channel 5, 7.30pm

In a special episode to mark Dementia Awareness Week, Anneka Rice is taking on a challenge on behalf of Age UK Wirral to construct an entire "memory village" from scratch for people with the illness. A memory village is a place where residents can live seemingly normal lives, but are actually being watched by caregivers at all times. Rice and her trusty team have just three days to build seven shops, a village green, beautiful landscaping and an on-site café. Oh, and they also need to throw a party to celebrate its opening. It's a race to the wire for this most noble of causes. **JC**

The Tragedy of Macbeth
BBC4, 8pm

Yaël Farber's bold vision of the Scottish play, filmed during its original run at the Almeida Theatre in 2021, brilliantly fuses the supernatural with brutish reality. James McArdle is a young Macbeth full of visceral energy and rage — a man who really believes he can defy the Fates. Using modern army weapons undercuts the aura of primordial forces, but you never doubt that this leader is pursued by demons. Saoirse Ronan, making her UK stage debut, lacks the same presence, but her descent into madness is convincing all the same. **Clive Davis**

Catch up

Fatal Attraction
Paramount+

A TV series that will not be ignored. But if you think that you know the tale of Michael Douglas, Glenn Close, infidelity, boiled bunnies and a bathtime surprise, think again. The writer James Dearden has returned to pen some episodes of this eight-part reimagining of his 1987 Oscar-winner, which plots and plods a slightly different tack, beginning with Dan Gallagher (Joshua Jackson) in jail for murder and up for parole. There are flashbacks to 15 years before, when he is a thrusting lawyer poised to become a judge who keeps catching the eye of Alex Forrest (Lizzy Caplan, *below with Jackson*), who works in the court's "victim services" department. Caplan delivers a slightly less unhinged Alex, but it's still at heart a tale of a man undone by his libido and, of course, the Other Woman. **Ben Dowell**



Regional programmes

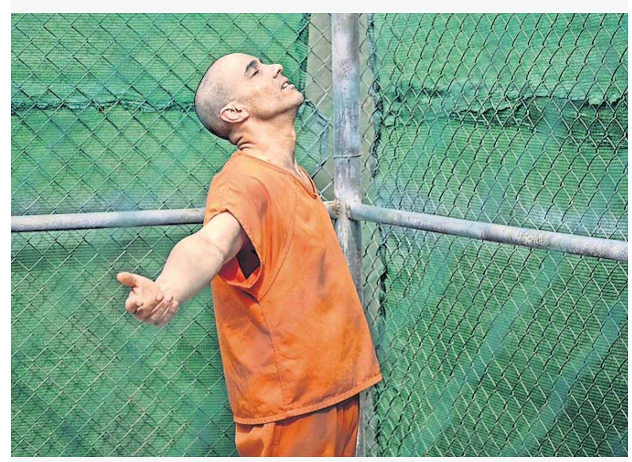
• **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 10.00am** Politics Wales. The latest political news and debate, presented by James Williams **10.30** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **11.30** Bargain Hunt (r) **12.15-12.45pm** Weatherman Walking: Dylan's Walks: Swansea & Llansteffan (r) **5.05-5.35pm** Weatherman Walking: Dylan's Walks: New Quay and Laugharne (r)
• **BBC2 Wales As BBC2 except: 4.00pm** Nature's Weirdest Events. A swarm of flying insects (r) **4.30** Commando: Britain's Ocean Warriors (r) **5.30-6.00pm** Snowdonia: A Year on the Farm (r)
• **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.00am** Sunday Politics Northern Ireland **10.30pm** Bikes! NW200. The North West 200 **11.30** Match of the Day 2 **12.35am** MOTD Top 10: Penalty Takers **1.05-6.00am** BBC News
• **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 3.05pm** Weather Watchers with Barra Best (r) **3.30** Live The Championship **6.30-7.00** Flog It! (r) **12.05am** Sunday Politics Northern Ireland (r) **12.35-12.50am** The Chronicles of Erne (r)
• **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 10.00-10.30am** The Sunday Show **5.05-5.35pm** Landward
• **STV As ITV1 except: 6.30-6.40pm** STV News **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
• **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** The Seven **7.15** Beechgrove Garden (r) **7.45** Landward (r) **8.15** Orkney: When the Boat Comes In (r) **8.45** Rewind 1990s (r) **9.00** Paramedics on Scene. A man collapses in the street **10.00** Still Game (r) **10.30** Two Doors Down (r) **11.00pm-Midnight** Seven Days
• **S4C 6.00am** Cyw: Cymylaubychain (r) **6.10** Twt (r) **6.25** Halibalw (r) **6.35** Cacamwnci (r) **6.50** Abadas (r) **7.00** Sigldigwt (r) **7.15** Guto Gwningen (r) **7.30** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **7.40** Octonots (r) **7.50** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **8.00** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **8.10** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **8.25** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **8.35** Ahoi! (r) **8.50** Penblwyddi Cyw **9.00** Garddio a Mwy (r) **9.25** Sain Ffagan (r) **9.50** Symud i Gymru (r) **10.45** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol (r) **11.15** Yr Wythnos **11.45** Live Ralïo+. The final leg of the Rally de Portugal **1.45pm** Teulu'r Castell (r) **2.45** Ffasiwn Drefn (r) **3.15** Ffermio (r) **3.50** Pobol y Cwm Omnibws (r) **5.00** Live Rygbi Indigo Prem. Coverage of a match from the Indigo Premiership **7.15** News **7.30** Dechrau Canu Dechrau Canmol **8.00** Iaith ar Daith **9.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia **9.45** Hen Dy Newydd (r) **10.45** Drych: Meddwl yn Wahanol (r) **11.45-12.20** Bois y Rhondda (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Films of the day

The Mauritanian (15, 2021)
BBC2, 10pm

Kevin Macdonald's powerful film portrays the real-life persecution of Mohamedou Ould Slahi, an electrical engineer and Mauritanian citizen who was imprisoned at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba for 14 years for a suspected role in the 9/11 attacks. He was released in 2016 without facing charges. The film is based on *Guantanamo Diary*, Slahi's unflinching account of his incarceration, which included months of sensory deprivation, torture and sexual assault. The excellent French-Algerian actor Tahar Rahim, *below*, plays Slahi, while Jodie Foster won a Golden Globe for her performance as Nancy Hollander, the US civil rights lawyer who pursued his case, and Benedict Cumberbatch plays the military prosecutor Lieutenant Colonel Stuart Couch. (129min) **JC**



Mindhorn (15, 2016)
BBC1, 12.05am

A delicious central premise and a thoughtfully crafted protagonist are ultimately betrayed in this scattershot comedy from the Mighty Boosh stable. The Boosh veteran Julian Barratt is writer and star here, playing Richard Thorncroft, a faded north London-based actor. He is a seemingly brash and insensitive ham whose career climaxed in the late 1980s with *Mindhorn*, a fictional detective series set on the Isle of Man. Then a serial killer called the Kestrel (Russell Tovey) tells police that he'll only negotiate with his childhood hero, Detective Mindhorn. Enter Thorncroft, overweight and wig-wearing, and the stage is set for him to give the greatest performance of his life: to convince a killer that Mindhorn is real and reboot his screen career. (89min) **Kate Muir**

Also available online and on tablet
Digital subscribers can now use our interactive seven-day guide with comprehensive listings of all TV channels
thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Sunday 14

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **7.35** Match of the Day (r) **9.00** Sunday with Laura Kuenssberg **10.00** Politics England **10.30** Animal Park (r) **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.00** Bargain Hunt (r) **12.45pm** Points of View **1.00** BBC News; Weather **1.15** Songs of Praise. Examining how Christians are improving their mental health **1.50** Live MOTD Women's FA Cup Final: Chelsea v Manchester United (Kick-off **2.30**). All the action from the showpiece match at Wembley Stadium. **See Viewing Guide** **5.05** The Repair Shop. Experts restore family heirlooms and possessions to their former glory (r) **5.35** BBC News **5.50** BBC Regional News; Weather **6.00** Countryfile. Charlotte Smith visits a Cornwall farm that provides mental and physical health support



Man Utd's Alessia Russo (1.50pm)

7.00 **The British Academy Television Awards** Rob Beckett and Romesh Ranganathan host the awards show from the Royal Festival Hall, celebrating the year's finest TV moments in front of a star-studded audience and members of the royal family. **See Viewing Guide**

9.00 **Ten Pound Poms** New series. Drama about British immigrants to Australia in the 1950s, who quickly discover that life down under isn't quite what they were sold. Starring Faye Marsay. **See Viewing Guide** (1/6)

10.00 **BBC News**; Weather

10.25 **BBC Regional News**

10.30 **Match of the Day 2** Mark Chapman reviews the day's Premier League action, including Everton v Manchester City at Goodison Park and Arsenal v Brighton & Hove Albion at Emirates Stadium

11.35 **MOTD Top 10: Penalty Takers** The best penalty takers in Premier League history

12.05am FILM **Mindhorn (15, 2016)** A washed-up actor helps police deal with a fugitive who will only speak to his character from a cop show. With Julian Barratt. **See Film Choice** **1.30** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.35** BBC News. The day's Headlines

BBC2

6.35am Gardeners' World (r) **7.35** Countryfile (r) **8.30** Beechgrove Garden (r) **9.00** Landward **9.30** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites **11.00** Family Cooking Showdown (r) **12.00** Food & Drink (r) **12.30pm** Dames: Talking Pictures (r) **1.15** FILM **Tea with Mussolini (PG, 1999)** Eccentric English and American women living in Florence in the tense pre-war years of the 1930s adopt a boy disowned by his father. Comedy drama, with Maggie Smith and Judi Dench **3.05** Flog It! Paul Martin presents from Southwell, near Nottingham (r) **4.00** Race Across the World (r) **5.00** Commando: Britain's Ocean Warriors. Last in the series (r) **6.00** The Hairy Bikers' Mediterranean Adventure. The culinary delights of southern Spain. Last in the series (r)



Cher in Tea for Mussolini (1.15pm)

7.00 **Inside the Factory** Gregg Wallace spends the day in the York factory where Polo mints are made, to follow the process from grading the sugar, making the dough to adding the flavour and pressing the sweets into their famous shape (6/6) (r)

8.00 **Antiques Roadshow** Fiona Bruce presents the show from Ulster Folk Museum near Belfast, where finds include a collection of dolls, an early Louis Vuitton trunk, an unusual black opal, and a pair of vintage Guinness signs (r)

9.00 **Simon Reeve's South America** Simon starts his travels through Brazil in one of the remotest regions of the Amazon with the Waiapi people, whose traditional way of life is under threat from logging and mining interests (2/5) (r)

10.00 FILM **The Mauritanian (15, 2021)** Premiere. Believed by US intelligence to be the main recruiter for the 9/11 attacks, Mohamedou Ould Slahi is picked up from his home village in Mauritania and taken to Guantanamo Bay without charge. His case is taken up by New Mexico lawyer Nancy Hollander, who is determined to take the US government to task for unlawful detention. Fact-based legal drama starring Tahar Rahim, Jodie Foster and Benedict Cumberbatch. **See Film Choice**

12.05am The Chris & Rosie Ramsey Show. The couple are joined by Joel Dommett and Hannah Cooper (r) **12.50** Sign Zone: Question Time. Fiona Bruce hosts the debate from East Sussex (r) (SL) **1.50-2.50** Last Woman on Earth with Sara Pascoe (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am CITV **8.25** ITV News **8.30** Laura Whitmore's Breakfast Show **9.25** Love Your Weekend with Alan Titchmarsh **11.25** Love Your Garden (r) **11.55** The Masked Singer US (r) **12.50pm** ITV News; Weather **1.00** Live Extreme E: The Hydro X-Prix. Coverage of race two of the second meeting of the campaign, which comes from Dumfries and Galloway **3.00** You've Been Framed! (r) **3.30** Tipping Point: Best Ever Finals. Endgames from the show hosted by Ben Shephard (r) **4.00** FILM **Goldfinger (PG, 1964)** James Bond tracks down a ruthless gold smuggler intent on destroying the world economy by raiding Fort Knox. Spy adventure starring Sean Connery **6.10** ITV News; Weather **6.30** Regional News; Weather **6.40** Family Fortunes



Niamh Algar in Malpractice (9pm)

7.40 **Britain's Got Talent** More performers take to the stage in London and Manchester to try to impress judges Bruno Tonioli, Simon Cowell, Amanda Holden and Alesha Dixon and secure their place in the live-semi-finals. Ant and Dec host both on stage and from the wings as they get ready to cheer and console the acts brave enough to perform in front of thousands

9.00 **Malpractice** Lucinda is contacted by someone who is prepared to expose her recent actions unless she co-operates, while Norma and George are stunned at their recent discovery and decide it is time to interview Lucinda again (4/5)

10.00 **ITV News**

10.20 **Long Lost Family** Davina McCall and Nicky Campbell tell the story of a young woman trying to fulfil her mother's dying wish of reuniting her brother with his birth family (r)

11.15 **Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union Highlights** David Flatman and Topsy Ojo present action from the semi-finals, as the line-up for the Grand Final on 27 May was confirmed (r)

12.15am Teleshopping **3.00** Motorsport UK. Action from Donington Park, featuring the JCW Mini Challenge and the Porsche Sprint Challenge GB (r) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Ainsley's Food We Love. With Alison Hammond and Aldo Zilli (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.20am Cheers (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.15** The King of Queens (r) **7.40** The King of Queens (r) **8.05** The King of Queens (r) **8.30** The Simpsons (r) **9.00** The Simpsons (r) **9.30** Sunday Brunch **12.30pm** The Simpsons (r) **1.00** The Simpsons. Lisa realises how much she has been shaped by a string of disappointing birthdays (r) **1.25** The Simpsons (r) **1.55** The Simpsons (r) **2.20** The Dog House. A saluki puppy meets Charlie and Ali (r) **3.25** Britain by Beach. Anita Rani presents a guide to the history of Britain's beaches (r) **4.25** Devon and Cornwall. An enterprising Cornishman decides to cultivate sunflowers (r) **5.30** Billionaire Blooms. Kelly Louise designs a floral dreamworld for a wealthy American couple. Last in the series **6.30** Channel 4 News



A biopic of JRR Tolkien (1am)

7.00 **Escape to the Château** With weddings and events on hold for the second year, Dick and Angel bite the bullet and make the big decision to tackle the exterior of the Chateau. With the roof and walls being their biggest project to date (1/8) (r)

8.00 **The Great Celebrity Bake Off for Stand Up to Cancer** James McAvoy, Anne-Marie, David Baddiel and Kelly Holmes enter the tent, making decorative tarts, a savoury technical and rendering animals in cake form. Matt Lucas presents (2/5) (r)

9.00 **Big Fat Quiz of Sport** Jimmy Carr hosts a big fat night of pointless sports trivia, with panellists Roisin Conaty, Judi Love, Joel Dommett, Dane Baptiste, Kerry Godliman and Tom Allen pondering why Paula Radcliffe apologised to the nation, which sports have been played on the moon, and what trademarks belong to Muhammad Ali. Charles Dance heads up the celebrity question setters, alongside the kids of Mitchell Brook Primary School

11.00 **Gogglebox** The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their instant reactions and the lively discussions that are prompted by the week's biggest and best shows (r)

12.05am Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **1.00** FILM **Tolkien (12, 2019)** JRR Tolkien biopic starring Nicholas Hoult **2.55** Come Dine with Me (r) **5.05** Jamie's Comfort Food. The toasted cheese sandwich (r) **5.15** Moneybags. Quiz series (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **10.00** The Smurfs **10.10** SpongeBob SquarePants (r) **10.25** Entertainment News on 5 **10.30** Police Interceptors (r) **11.30** Police Interceptors. The interceptors go in hot pursuit of tearaway teens (r) **12.30pm** FILM **Rio Lobo (PG, 1970)** A former Union colonel heads for Texas to recover stolen gold bullion and settle a few old scores. Western starring John Wayne and Jorge Rivero **2.50** FILM **Waterworld (12, 1995)** A mutant mariner in a flooded world protects a child, who holds the key to finding dry land, from a horde of pirates. Sci-fi adventure starring Kevin Costner and Dennis Hopper **5.30** 5 News Weekend **5.35** Britain's Best Places to Live 2023. A countdown of the UK's 10 most desirable and attractive locations



Challenge Anneka (7.30pm)

7.30 **Challenge Anneka: Dementia Special** Volunteers led by Anneka Rice have three days to help Age UK create a village for people with dementia, building seven shops, a green space, landscaping and an on-site cafe for carers to sit in and relax. **See Viewing Guide** (3/4)

9.00 **Rich House, Poor House: Millionaire Special** A woman who inherited Muncaster Castle and estate in Cumbria swaps live with a self-made Liverpool businesswoman who came from a working-class background

10.00 **The Teacher with Tourette's** Natalie Davidson tries to help people with extreme cases of Tourette's find acceptance in the workplace, and tests a pioneering piece of technology

10.55 FILM **Kiss the Girls (18, 1997)** A psychologist hunts for the kidnapper responsible for his niece's disappearance, with the help of one of the criminal's past victims. Thriller starring Morgan Freeman, Ashley Judd, Cary Elwes and Tony Goldwyn

1.10am Teleshopping **3.10** Walking Britain's Lost Railways (r) **3.55** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.45** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) (SL) **5.40** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.45** Paw Patrol (r)

Sunday 14 | Primetime digital guide



The Tragedy of Macbeth
James McArdle and Saoirse Ronan star in the play
BBC4, 8pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am Cristo
7.00 David Bull A look at the biggest stories of the day that matter to you
10.00 Richard Tice The former MEP examines the state of the nation and delivers some much needed sanity in his Sunday Sermon
1.00pm Trisha Goddard The broadcaster looks through the week's leading stories and gives her thoughts on the biggest social dilemmas making the news this week
4.00 Kevin O'Sullivan The host tackles the day's big stories, champions free speech
7.00 The Sunday Night Club with Mark Saggers The host reflects on the sporting weekend and more
10.00-12.00m't The Unexplained with Howard Hughes The host investigates everything from ghosts to Bigfoot

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm EastEnders
7.30 EastEnders
8.00 Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton Following boxer Amir Khan and his wife Faryal Makhdoom (1/8)
8.30 Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton Faryal seeks therapy to address their relationships issues (2/8)
9.00 I Kissed a Boy New series. Dannii Minogue presents a dating show for gay men (1/8)
9.45 FILM Easy A (15, 2010) A teenager lies about her sexual history and ends up becoming the talk of her school. Teen comedy starring Emma Stone and Penn Badgley
11.15 Search Party Drew, Elliot and Portia learn Dory does not want to be saved (9/10)
11.45-12.15am Search Party Dory learns what people think of her. Last in the series (10/10)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Francesco's Italy: Top to Toe Francesco da Mosto explores the south of Italy, where his family has lived for centuries, and takes a trip to Mount Etna when he visits the island of Sicily. Last in the series (4/4)
8.00 The Tragedy of Macbeth James McArdle and Saoirse Ronan star in this critically acclaimed production of the Shakespeare play, captured during its 2021 run at the Almeida Theatre. **See Viewing Guide**
10.35 Gilbert and George: No Surrender: Imagine Alan Yentob examines the work of artists Gilbert and George as they prepare for the opening of their recent retrospective (1/5)
11.25-12.25am Ian Hislop's Fake News: A True History The history of dishonest news reporting

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Come Dine with Me The fourth night of the dinner party competition in Peterborough
7.25 Come Dine with Me A veterinary nurse is the final host in Peterborough
8.00 24 Hours in A&E Memorable cases, including a retired firefighter hit in the face by a golf club
9.00 999: On the Front Line Paramedics on the night shift find a woman collapsed on the floor and on the verge of a diabetic coma (9/10)
10.00 The Emergency Ward A self-confessed 'idiot' needs treatment after falling out of a tree while holding a chainsaw
11.05-12.05am Emergency Helicopter Medics A visitor to a horse fair in Cumbria needs emergency intervention (10/11)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.45pm True Blood Sookie re-evaluates her relationship with Bill (8/12) (R)
7.55 Catherine the Great Potemkin returns and hopes to begin a relationship with Catherine (2/4) (R)
9.00 Succession Hoping to work the angles, Kendall and Roman ask Shiv to invite a campaign insider to Logan's pre-election party (7/10) (R)
10.10 Dreamland Trish and Spence win their dream house at auction (6/6) (R)
10.40 Perry Mason After a manhunt leads to the arrests of brothers Rafael and Mateo Gallardo for the McCutcheon murder, Perry initially resists taking the case, until a hunch reels him in (2/8) (R)
11.45-12.55am Patrick Melrose In 2003, Patrick and his family visit his ailing mother for the summer (4/5) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

6.45pm FILM Tina (15, 2021) A celebration of Tina Turner's life and career, featuring contributions from the Grammy Award-winning artist, as well as Angela Bassett and Oprah Winfrey
9.00 The Man Who Played with Fire Documentary in which Jan Stocklassa investigates the assassination of prime minister of Sweden Olof Palme in 1986 using the personal files of writer Stieg Larsson (1/4) (R)
10.00 Natalie Wood: What Remains Behind A unique insight into the movie star's life, from her daughter's perspective (R)
12.00-1.50am FILM Kings of Coke (15, 2022) How a gang of Irish bank robbers from Montreal rose to become one of North America's most feared criminal organisations

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

8.00pm FILM Shanghai Noon (12, 2000) A 19th-century imperial guard to the Emperor of China is flung into the Wild West on a mission to rescue a kidnapped princess. Comedy Western starring Jackie Chan, Owen Wilson, Jason Connery and Lucy Liu
10.10 Family Guy Peter tries to convert Chris to Judaism
10.40 Family Guy Peter and Lois go on a second honeymoon
11.10 Family Guy Brian falls in love
11.40-12.05am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

5.45pm FILM Downton Abbey (PG, 2019) The Crawley family prepares for a royal visit from George V and Queen Mary. Drama based on the TV series starring Hugh Bonneville, Michelle Dockery and Maggie Smith
8.15 Lewis The detective investigates a possible link between the disappearance of a police officer and the discovery of a recently embalmed body (2/3)
10.00-12.05am Lewis A don is killed on his release from prison

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

3.30pm Live ITV Racing: Sky Bet Sunday Series Coverage of round two of the series from Hamilton
7.05 Great Racehorses Ed Chamberlin introduces some of the great horses of the modern era
7.30 Live LaLiga: Espanyol v Barcelona (Kick-off **8.00**)
10.20-11.20pm FILM Under Siege 2: Dark Territory (18, 1995) A Navy veteran on board a train battles hijackers who possess a weapon with the potential to trigger earthquakes. With Steven Seagal

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm The Big Bang Theory
7.30 The Big Bang Theory
8.00 The Big Bang Theory
8.30 The Big Bang Theory
9.00 Absolutely Dyer: Danny and Dani Do Italy The pair sample true luxury on a visit to Milan (4/4)
10.00 Gogglebox
11.05-1.05am FILM Ghost in the Shell (12, 2017) A cyborg soldier battles a terrorist who has developed the ability to hack into people's minds and control them. Sci-fi starring Scarlett Johansson

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Border Force: America's Gatekeepers Officers are on alert for an ambush as they transfer a Sicario to the Mexican military
8.00 QI XL An extended version of the quiz in which Jason Manford, Romesh Ranganathan and Holly Walsh join Alan Davies
9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Alexander Armstrong hosts, with Jon Richardson.
10.00 Meet the Richardsons
10.40 Live at the Apollo
11.40-12.20am QI

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

7.00pm Father Brown The sleuth protects a crown that contains a nail from the crucifixion of Christ
8.00 Jonathan Creek The death of a retired illusionist has Maddy and Jonathan clutching at straws as they endeavour to reach an explanation. Christmas edition from 1998, guest with Rik Mayall
10.00 State of Play Stephen tries to bring George down
11.20-12.40am Luther Jenny's ruthless boss seeks revenge against Luther

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Bangers and Cash Dave heads to Bolton to pick up a classic car — a Lancia Fulvia 1.3 Sport (8/8)
8.00 'Allo 'Allo! The Resistance provides a waitress for Cafe Rene
8.30 'Allo 'Allo! Rene tries to establish contact with England
9.05 'Allo 'Allo! A spy camera sent from London falls into a vineyard
9.35 'Allo 'Allo! Rene and the team go to work in the vineyard
10.10 Classic Car Garage (4/10)
11.10-12.10am Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics (1/6)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.20pm A Doctor's Sword The origin of a sword gifted in the wake of the Nagasaki nuclear attack
7.30 Military Masterminds The lives of Moshe Dayan, Colin Powell and Isoroku Yamomoto (1/4)
8.35 Military Masterminds The lives of military leaders who combined military corps (2/4)
9.40 Military Masterminds How military leaders have used deception tactics to win (3/4)
10.50 Military Masterminds (4/4)
12.00-1.15am A Doctor's Sword

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir With Edwyn Collins and Grace Maxwell (4/6)
8.00 Clint Eastwood: A Life in Film The Oscar-winning actor and director discusses his life and work, reflecting on the moments that have defined his career
9.45 Discovering: Michael Caine A look at the life and career of the Oscar-winning actor (4/13)
10.45-12.20am The Decade the Music Died A celebration of music stars who died in the 2010s

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Lost Worlds The history of the cities built on the hilltop of Har Megiddo in Israel, which is the source of the word Armageddon
8.00 Lost Worlds The development of airship transport
9.00 Royal Mob Docudrama about Queen Victoria's favourite grand-daughters (1/4)
10.00 Royal Mob Willy at last ascends the German throne (2/4)
11.00 Royal Mob At the turn of the century, Queen Victoria dies (3/4)
12.00-1.00am Royal Mob (4/4)

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm The 00s: Cinema's Greatest Decade Examining the merits of films from the 2000s
8.00 SEAL Team The members of Bravo must fight their way out of hostile territory (10/10)
9.00 S.W.A.T The unit teams up with the FBI to hunt for a fugitive
10.00 NCIS: Los Angeles The team assists the cold case homicide unit
11.00 Fantasy Island A woman searches for her daughter (3/10)
12.00-1.00am The Force: North East A stabbing in Newcastle (1/10)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Lost Treasures of Rome Off the coast of Sicily, investigators discover traces of a battle (2/6)
8.00 Drain the Oceans Palaeontologists overturn misconceptions about dinosaurs
9.00 Kingdom of the Mummies The team tries to move the heavy lid of a sarcophagus (2/4)
10.00 UFOs: Investigating the Unknown Documentary (2/5)
11.00 America's Hardest Prisons
12.00-1.00am America's Hardest Prisons Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Moonshiners: Master Distiller Distillers compete to make the best nut liquor
8.00 Plane Reclaimers A 747 Jumbo Jet requires dismantling
9.00 Blowing Up History
10.00 Roadworthy Rescues
11.00 Wheeler Dealers
12.00-1.00am Naked and Afraid

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm The Office (US)
7.30 The Office (US)
8.00 The Office (US)
8.30 The Office (US)
9.00 Bill Maher: But I'm Not Wrong Stand-up comedy special
10.30 Curb Your Enthusiasm
11.50-12.30am Curb Your Enthusiasm (2/10)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

6.45pm Friends
7.15 Friends
7.45 Friends
8.20 Friends
9.00 FILM The Break-Up (12, 2006) Starring Jennifer Aniston
11.00 Kevin Bridges: The Brand New Tour Stand-up comedy
12.00-12.30am Reno 911!

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Only Fools and Horses
7.40 Only Fools and Horses
8.20 Dad's Army The men head off for a weekend at a training camp
9.00 Billy Connolly Does...
10.00 The Fast Show
10.40 The Fast Show
11.20 The Fast Show
12.00-1.00am Billy Connolly Does

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Inside the Ambulance
8.00 Inside the Operating Theatre
9.00 Katie Price: Harvey and Me Following the model and her son as he turns 18, with the pair exploring the options of further education colleges
10.20 DNA Family Secrets
11.40-12.45am Stacey Dooley

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Hudson & Rex Two hikers are discovered murdered near a remote coastal trail (1/16)
8.00 Hudson & Rex A troubled young pop star is suspected of killing her fiancé (2/16)
9.00 Death in Paradise (7/8)
10.00 CSI: Vegas (2/10)
11.00-12.10am Smother (3/6)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

10.00am Super Sunday Matchday
11.30 Live EFL Championship semi-final first-leg (Kick-off **12.00**)
2.00pm Live Super Sunday: Everton v Manchester City From Goodison Park (Kick-off **2.00**)
4.00 Live Super Sunday: Arsenal v Brighton & Hove Albion From the Emirates Stadium (Kick-off **4.30**)
7.00 Live EFL (Kick-off **7.00**)
9.30 Live PGA Tour Golf
11.00pm-12.00m't Live LPGA Tour Golf The Cognizant Founders Cup
12.30-3.00am Live NBA Basketball

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

10.00am Super Sunday Matchday
12.00 Sports Sunday
1.00pm Live Super Sunday: Everton v Manchester City From Goodison Park (Kick-off **2.00**)
4.00 Live Super Sunday: Arsenal v Brighton & Hove Albion From Emirates Stadium (Kick-off **4.30**)
7.30 David James: The One and Only
9.00 PL Highlights
9.30 PL Highlights
10.00 PL Highlights
10.30-12.00m't PL Highlights



Rory Burns is set to open the batting for Surrey against Middlesex (Sky Cricket, 10.55am)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

10.55am Live County Championship Cricket: Surrey v Middlesex Action from the third day of the Division 1 match from The Kia Oval, London
6.30pm Captain's Log
7.30 T20 Blast 2006
7.45 County Championship Cricket
8.00 IPL Rajasthan Royals v Royal Challengers Bangalore
9.00 IPL Chennai v Kolkata
10.00 County Championship Cricket Surrey v Middlesex
11.00-12.00m't IPL

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

7.30-10.30am Live AFL: Collingwood Magpies v GWS Giants (Bounce-up **7.40**)
11.30-1.30pm Live Serie A: Verona v Torino (Kick-off **11.30**)
2.30-5.15pm Live Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union
7.00 Live Golazzo
7.45 Live Serie A: Juventus v Cremonese (Kick-off **8.00**)
10.00 World Rally Championship
10.30 MLB: Off The Bat
11.00 Live Baseball Tonight
12.00-3.30am Live MLB

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

7.45am Live Red Bull MotoGP Rookies Cup
8.30-9.00 Live MotoGP
9.15 Live MotoGP (Start **10.00**)
11.00 Live MotoGP (Start **11.15**)
12.30pm Live MotoGP (Start **1.00**)
2.15-3.15 Live MotoGP Chequered Flag Post-race show
5.00 Live Serie A: (Kick-off **5.00**)
7.00 Uefa League Magazine
7.30 Live Ligue 1: (Kick-off **7.45**)
9.45 WWE SmackDown Highlights
10.45-12.30am WWE NXT
3.00-8.30am Live Badminton

Sunday 14

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

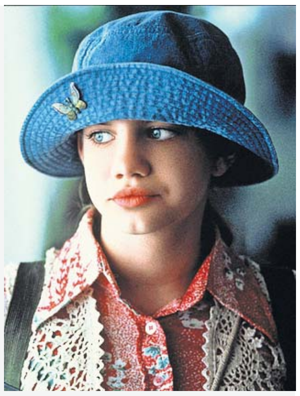
11.00am Ferdinand (U, 2017) Animated comedy with the voice of John Cena **1.10pm The War with Grandpa (PG, 2021)** Comedy starring Robert De Niro **3.05 The Addams Family (PG, 1991)** Black comedy starring Anjelica Huston and Raul Julia **5.05 Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (12, 2014)** Fantasy adventure starring Megan Fox and William Fichtner **7.10 Bill & Ted's Bogus Journey (PG, 1991)** Comedy sequel starring Keanu Reeves **9.00 Under Siege (15, 1992)** Action adventure with Steven Seagal and Tommy Lee Jones **11.05-1.00am Old Boys (12, 2018)** Comedy with Jonah Hauer-King and Alex Lawther

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Just Like Heaven (PG, 1930) Drama starring Anita Louise and David Newell **7.15 Look at Life 7.25 Old Mother Riley's Jungle Treasure (U, 1951)** Comedy starring Arthur Lucan and Kitty McShane **8.55 Powder River (U, 1953)** Western starring Rory Calhoun and Corinne Calvet **10.30 Two Way Stretch (U, 1960)** Comedy starring Peter Sellers and Bernard Cribbins **12.15pm Dancing With Crime (PG, 1947)** Crime drama with Richard Attenborough **1.55 UK Swings Again 2.30 The Larkins 3.00 A Night in Casablanca (U, 1946)** Slapstick comedy starring the Marx Brothers **4.45 Look at Life 5.00 The Footage Detectives 6.00 The Saint 7.00 Bait (PG, 1954)** Film noir crime drama starring Cleo Moore and Hugo Haas **8.40 Look at Life 9.00 Van der Valk 10.00-12.10am Juggernaut (PG, 1974)** Thriller starring Richard Harris, Anthony Hopkins and Omar Sharif

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am GREAT! Movie News 9.10 Garage Sale Mystery (PG, 2013) Crime drama starring Lori Loughlin, Rick Ravanello and Sara Canning **11.00 What's Eating Gilbert Grape (12, 1993)** Drama starring Johnny Depp and Leonardo DiCaprio **1.25pm My Girl (PG, 1991)** Drama starring Anna Chlumsky and Dan Aykroyd **3.35 My Girl 2 (PG, 1994)** Comedy drama with Dan Aykroyd and Jamie Lee Curtis **5.40 The Horse Whisperer (PG, 1998)** Drama starring Robert Redford, Kristin Scott Thomas and Sam Neill



Anna Chlumsky in My Girl (GREAT! Movies, 1.25pm)

9.00 Taken 3 (12, 2014) Action thriller sequel starring Liam Neeson and Forest Whitaker **11.15-1.10am I Am Wrath (15, 2016)** Crime thriller with John Travolta, Christopher Meloni and Rebecca De Mornay

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am Hollywood's Best Film Directors 6.35 TCM Shorts 6.55 Sierra Passage (PG, 1950) Western starring Wayne Morris and Lola Albright **8.35 King of the Wild Stallions (U, 1959)** Western starring Diane Brewster and George Montgomery **10.15 3 Godfathers (U, 1948)** Western starring John Wayne and Pedro Armendariz **12.25pm The Cowboys (PG, 1972)** Western starring John Wayne, Roscoe Lee Browne and Bruce Dern **3.00 How the West Was Won (PG, 1962)** Western starring James Stewart, John Wayne and Gregory Peck **6.10 Canyon Raiders (PG, 1951)** Western starring Whip Wilson and Fuzzy Knight **7.20 The Bounty Hunter (PG, 1954)** Western with Randolph Scott and Dolores Dorn **9.00 Demolition Man (15, 1993)** Sci-fi thriller starring Sylvester Stallone, Wesley Snipes and Sandra Bullock **11.25-1.15am Trespass (15, 2011)** Thriller starring Nicolas Cage and Nicole Kidman

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.25pm Dead Shot (15, 2023) Thriller starring Colin Morgan **2.25 The Old Way (15, 2023)** Western starring Nicolas Cage and Ryan Kiera Armstrong **4.05 Vengeance (15, 2022)** Premiere. Mystery drama with BJ Novak and Boyd Holbrook **6.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville and Isabelle Huppert **8.00 Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Colin Morgan **10.00-12.00am Ticket to Paradise (12, 2022)** Comedy romance starring George Clooney and Julia Roberts

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

6.00am Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Sunday Morning with Kate McCann and Adam Boulton **1.00pm** Alexis Conran **4.00** Ayesha Hazarika **7.00** Highlights from Times Radio **8.00** Stories of Our Times **8.30** Best of Matt Chorley **9.00** Highlights from Times Radio **10.00** Darryl Morris **1.00am** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

5.00am Radio 2 in Concert (r) **6.00** Good Morning Sunday **9.00** Steve Wright's Sunday Love Songs **11.00** Emma Willis **1.00pm** Samantha Barks on Sunday **3.00** Sounds of the 70s with Johnnie Walker **5.00** Rob Beckett **7.00** Tony Blackburn's Golden Hour **8.00** Sunday Night Is Music Night (r) **10.00** Radio 2 Unwinds with Angela Griffin **12.00** Phil Williams **3.00am** Alternative Sounds of the 90s with Dermot O'Leary **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

7.00am Breakfast 9.00 Sunday Morning 12.00 Private Passions 1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert Another chance to hear Monday's recital from Wigmore Hall. Schnittke (*Suite in the Old Style*); Falla (*Suite populaire espagnole*); Prokofiev (3 Movements from *Romeo and Juliet*) and Korngold (Suite from *Much Ado about Nothing*, Op 11) (r) **2.00 The Early Music Show** Singer-songwriters of 13th-century northern France **3.00 Choral Evensong** From Bristol Cathedral (r) **4.00 Jazz Record Requests 5.00 The Listening Service** The relationship between music and the mind (r) **5.30 Words and Music** Poetry, prose and music on the theme of Saturday night and Sunday morning. **See Choice 6.45 Between the Ears: Scoring Mental Health** Examining music reflecting the experiences of people with mental-health conditions. **7.15 Sunday Feature: New Generation Thinkers — The Perfect Balance** Anindya Raychaudhuri seeks different perspectives on balance **7.30 Drama on 3: Ian McEwan with the BBC Symphony Orchestra** The author is accompanied by the BBCSO as he reads from his works (r) **9.15 Record Review Extra** Sibelius's Symphony No 6 **11.00 The Story of the Little Book** A look at the peculiar requirements of the opera text **12.00 Classical Fix 12.30am Through the Night**

Today's pick

Words and Music: Saturday Night and Sunday Morning
Radio 3, 5.30pm
The *Sherwood* actor Robert Glenister and Ellie Haddington (*Motherland*), *right*, bring readings reflecting on what a night out looks like in the working men's club depicted in Alan Sillitoe's first novel. With music by Mendelssohn, Handel and Elton John, other books under discussion include the sound of livestock receiving their orders in George Orwell's *Animal Farm*, as well as the loneliness of a student listening to Miles Davis conjured up in Caleb Azumah Nelson's novel *Small Worlds*. Ben Dowell



Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Bells on Sunday 5.45 Profile (r) **6.00 News Headlines 6.05 Something Understood** Mundane objects (r) **6.35 On Your Farm 7.00 News and Papers 7.10 Sunday 7.54 Radio 4 Appeal 8.00 News and Papers 8.10 Sunday Worship 8.48 A Point of View** (r) **8.58 Tweet of the Day** (r) **9.00 Broadcasting House 10.00 The Archers** (r) **11.15 Desert Island Discs 12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 Just a Minute** (r) **12.30 The Food Programme 1.00 The World This Weekend 1.30 Conspiracies: The Secret Knowledge** New series. The role of conspiracy theory in British politics **2.00 Gardeners' Question Time** Listeners' queries (r) **2.45 Opening Lines** (3/3) **3.00 Drama: Love Stories — Anna Karenina** The final part of Linda Marshall Griffiths' dramatisation of Tolstoy's novel. Anna and Vronsky are forced into exile (3/3) **4.00 Open Book** Works by the novelist Deborah Levy **4.30 21st-Century Relaxation Tape** Aural bliss **5.00 File on 4** (r) **5.40 Profile** (r) **5.54 Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.15 Pick of the Week 7.00 The Archers** Tony unearths a shocking secret **7.15 Mark Steel's in Town** (r) **7.45 On Portobello Prom** (2/5) **8.00 Feedback** (r) **8.30 Last Word** (r) **9.00 Money Box** (r) **9.25 Radio 4 Appeal** (r) **9.30 Short Cuts** (r) **10.00 The Westminster Hour 11.00 Loose Ends** (r) **11.30 Something Understood 12.00 News and Weather 12.15am Thinking Allowed** (r) **12.45 Bells on Sunday** (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Ukrainecast **6.00** Science **7.00** Breakfast **10.00** Helen Skelton **12.00** 5 Live Sport **2.00pm** 5 Live Sport: Everton v Man City (Kick-off 2.00) **4.00** 5 Live Sport **4.30** 5 Live Sport: Arsenal v Brighton & Hove Albion (Kick-off 4.30) **6.30** 6-0-6 **8.00** Proper Football Podcast **8.30** Different with Nicky Campbell **9.00** Stephen Nolan **12.00** Tony Bellew Is Angry **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

6.00am Weekend Sports Breakfast **9.00** Jonny Owen and Friends **11.00** Warm Up **1.00pm** Sunday Session **5.00** Boot Room **8.00** A talkSPORT Special **9.00** Trans Europe Express **12.00** A talkSPORT Special **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am Cristo **7.00** David Bull **10.00** Richard Tice **1.00pm** Trisha Goddard **4.00** Kevin O'Sullivan **7.00** Sunday Night Club **10.00** The Unexplained with Howard Hughes **12.00** That Was The Woke That Was **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

7.50am Young Victoria **9.00** Instant Sunshine **9.30** The Navy Lark **10.00** Desert Island Discs Revisited **10.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **11.00** Poetry Extra **11.30** Catch-22 **12.40pm** Inheritance Tracks **12.50** Young Victoria **2.00** Instant Sunshine **2.30** The Navy Lark **3.00** Desert Island Discs Revisited **3.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories **4.00** Night Watch **4.30** The Golden Apples of the Sun **5.00** Poetry Extra **5.30** Catch-22 **6.40** Inheritance Tracks **6.50** Young Victoria **8.00** Instant Sunshine **8.30** The Navy Lark **9.00** Desert Island Discs Revisited **9.45** David Attenborough's Life Stories. The Quetzalcoatlus **10.00** Comedy Club: Start/Stop. By Jack Docherty **10.30** Chain Reaction **11.00** Andy Hamilton Sort of Remembers **11.30** Brian Appleton's History of Rock 'n' Roll **11.45** Self Storage **12.00** Poetry Extra **12.30am** Catch-22

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am News **9.06** From Our Own Correspondent **9.30** Outlook **10.00** News **10.06** Music Life **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Trending **11.50** More or Less **12.00** News **12.06pm** BBC OS Conversations **12.30** Assignment **1.00** Newshour **2.00** News **2.06** Sportsworld **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** In the Studio **8.00** News **8.06** The Science Hour **9.00** Newshour **10.06** The Climate Question **10.30** Pick of the World **10.50** Over to You **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Outlook **12.00** News **12.06am** From Our Own Correspondent **12.30** Trending **12.50** More or Less **1.00** Newsroom **1.30** Discovery **2.00** Newsroom **2.30** CrowdScience **3.00** News **3.06** People Fixing the World **3.30** Pick of the World **3.50** Over to You **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** The Conversation

6 Music
Digital only

6.00am Nabihah Iqbal **8.00** Radcliffe and Maconie **10.00** Cerys Matthews **1.00pm** Journeys in Sound **2.00** Guy Garvey's Finest Hour **4.00** Iggy Pop **6.00** Now Playing @6Music **8.00** Stuart Maconie's Freak Zone **10.00** Don Letts' Culture Clash Radio **12.00** Guy Garvey's Finest Hour **2.00am** Jukebox **3.00** Rave Forever **4.00** The BBC Introducing Mixtape

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.00am Amy Voce **9.30** The Graham Norton Radio Show **12.30pm** Stu Elmore **4.00** Tim Cocker **7.00** Sunday Special **8.00** Bam **12.00** My 80s Playlist. Classic tracks **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

7.00am Aled Jones **10.00** Andrew Marr **1.00pm** Catherine Bott **4.00** John Humphrys **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Sam Pittis **4.00** Early Breakfast

Monday 15 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Steeltown Murders
BBC1, 9pm


Gareth John Bale, Philip Glenister and Steffan Rhodri

It's summer 1973 in Port Talbot, south Wales, and a girl called Sandra Newton has been murdered. Local detectives think they know the culprit and are focusing their energies on intimidating her boyfriend in the hope of a confession. It's a familiarly grim entrée into the 1970s world of whiskery faces, leather coats and questionable values that stands in sharp contrast to parallel scenes set in the early 2000s. Here DCI Paul Bethell (played by Philip Glenister, in a neat reversal of his Seventies cop thug in *Life on Mars*) washes his face after seeing glimpses of his Seventies self (played by Scott Arthur) when the case was live. When it is reopened Bethell is naturally keen to help. Sandra's killer had never been found and there appears to be evidence that the culprit was also responsible for the murder of two other girls, Geraldine Hughes and Pauline Floyd, towards the end of the same summer. The complexity and sensitivity of the real events depicted presents a tough assignment for the scriptwriter Ed Whitmore (who wrote the true crime series *Manhunt*) and he does a good job. As this is a case in which DNA breakthroughs played a significant role in getting to the truth, he needs to be a sharp technician. He also has a keen eye for the contrasting values and vibe of the two time periods, and his approach feels compassionate towards the families of the victims. Under Marc Evans's direction it is also a stunningly visual experience — the Welsh hills offering a stark contrast to the grimy, industrialised townscapes.
Ben Dowell

Succession
Sky Atlantic/Now, 2am/9pm

After last week's savagely intense row with Shiv, it's another tough day for the Wambsgans man: election day to be precise. He's exhausted, his fired predecessor Cyd is spreading poison about him "like a cobra with an iPhone", and the polling is agonisingly poised. If the Democrat Daniel Jiménez wins, the Matsson deal goes through and Shiv is happy. Kendall and Roman are scheming for the Republican candidate Jeryd Mencken, who has promised to block the GoJo deal (with a few right-wing policies for the Republicans). Not unlike ATN's election night coverage, it makes for another gripping night of TV. **BD**

Panorama
BBC1, 8pm

With a sharp increase in the number of adults who believe that they have attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD), the NHS has been overwhelmed by patients seeking diagnoses, with thousands turning to private clinics for assessment. In *False Diagnosis: The ADHD Scandal*, the reporter Rory Carson poses as a patient to reveal how some clinics charge large fees for a short online consultation, with evidence suggesting that diagnoses are handed out to almost everyone who books an appointment. The programme also exposes clinics prescribing powerful drugs without proper checks. **BD**

The Stones and Brian Jones
BBC2, 9pm

Brian Jones, a founding member of the Rolling Stones, drowned in a swimming pool in 1969, three weeks after leaving the band. A gentle young man, some of his bandmates had an inkling that he wouldn't make old bones, and this thoughtful *Arena* film by Nick Broomfield suggests he was possibly too sensitive for the rock star life. As well as interviews with all the main players and freshly unearthed archive footage, it starts with photos of Jones in childhood, reflecting on what being a child means, and ends with a heartbreaking letter from his father. **BD**

Without Sin
ITV1, 9pm

A scheduled TV airing of a four-part drama that has already been on the catch-up service ITVX stars Vicky McClure (*Line of Duty*) as Stella, who is contacted from prison by Charles Stone (Johnny Harris), the man she believes murdered her 14-year-old daughter three years previously. Stone wants her to visit him, and after much agonising she heads to the prison expecting to meet a man keen on atoning for his terrible actions. But what he has to say turns her life upside down all over again and fires the starting gun on an absorbing and surprising story. **BD**

Films of the day

Vengeance (15, 2022)
Sky Cinema Premiere/Now, 6pm

BJ Novak (Ryan from the American *Office*) reinvigorates a tired formula about city slickers in heartland America, casting himself as Ben, an aspiring New York podcaster who drops into west Texas to attend the funeral of his online fling Abilene Shaw (Lio Tipton). The quirky denizens he meets there convince him of two things — they would make fascinating subjects for a podcast and, yes, Abilene was murdered. The writerly complexity here means that Novak imbues the yokels with dignity and unfussy sophistication. Ben is a modern-day Woody Allen protagonist — nervy, witty and self-deprecating. Ashton Kutcher (*below with Novak*) delivers a mesmerising cameo as a svengali music producer who says of online debate: "Everything means everything, so nothing means anything." All this and murder too. (104min) **Kevin Maher**



Colette (15, 2018)
BBC2, 11.15pm

Keira Knightley stars in the story of the pioneering French novelist Colette's liberating journey away from a controlling man, the "literary entrepreneur" Henry Gauthier-Villars (Dominic West), who colonises her talents. It's similar in theme to *Mary Shelley*, *The Wife* and *Big Eyes*, but it's tonally uneven, with slices of *Carry On* (jaunty sex montages) and sudden jolts of Virginia Woolf. "Did you ever feel that you were playing a part? Of the wife and the mother?" Colette, in serious mode, asks of the concerned parent Fiona Shaw. The performances are uniformly just fine, with West playing the thigh-slapping buffoon just long enough to make the monster inside truly repellent. (112min) **KM**

Catch up

Great Expectations
BBC iPlayer



You couldn't accuse Steven Knight's Dickens reimagining of not trying something new. "*Great Expectations* stands like a mountain on the literary horizon," Knight wrote in The Times. "When I was asked to adapt the book I didn't take it as an invitation to climb the mountain, but simply to do my own sketch of it … This is more like a dream about a book, a way of using the timeless characters to explore timeless themes." We know the thrust of the narrative — Pip's efforts to rise above his station and change his destiny. The unlikely source of this change in fortune is the ghoulish Miss Havisham (a superb Olivia Colman, *left*), the wealthy, wedding dress-wearing spinster with yellowing teeth. She has plans for Pip that open him up to a world of dark possibilities.
Joe Clay

Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 8.00pm** Weatherman Walking **8.30-9.00pm** False Diagnosis: The ADHD Scandal: Panorama
● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 6.55-7.00pm** Party Election Broadcast (r) **8.00** Family Footsteps **8.30-9.00** False Diagnosis: The ADHD Scandal: Panorama **10.40** Bikes! NW200 **11.40** Have I Got a Bit More News for You (r) **12.25am** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (r) **1.25-6.00am** BBC News
● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 8.30-9.00pm** Scotland's Home of the Year. New series. Property experts showcase the best houses in the east of Scotland **11.25** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights (r) **12.10am** Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (r) **1.10** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.15-6.00am** BBC News
● **ITV1 Wales As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.40pm** Sharp End
● **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** The Thief, His Wife and the Canoe: The Real Story. Documentary about John Darwin, who faked his death in a canoeing accident (r) **12.00-3.00** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision. News, sport and weather
● **UTV As ITV1 except: 6.20-6.30pm** Party Election Broadcast **10.45-11.40pm** View from Stormont. Political news
● **BBC Scotland 2.00pm** Sign Zone: Beechgrove Garden (r) **2.30** Sign Zone: Landward (r) **3.00-4.00** Sign Zone: Inside the Zoo (r) **7.00** Sportscene: SWPL Highlights **7.45** Sportscene Goals+ **8.00** Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City **10.30** Designing the Hebrides **11.00** Jules and Greg's Wild Swim (r) **11.30pm-Midnight** Best of Chewin' the Fat (r)
● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw **12.00** News **12.05pm** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Glannau Cymru o'r Awyr (r) **1.30** Sain Ffagan (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Ffit Cymru (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Timpo (r) **4.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindau (r) **4.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **4.30** Blero yn Mynd i Ocido (r) **4.45** Sigldigwt (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Angelo am Byth (r) **5.10** Cath-Od (r) **5.20** Chwarter Call (r) **5.35** Lego DREAMZzz **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Pobol y Penwythnos (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd (r) **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Cymry ar Gynfas. Landscape artist Lisa Eurgain Taylor paints a portrait of Trystan Ellis-Morris **8.25** Garddio a Mwy. Meinir explores a special garden on Anglesey **8.55** News **9.00** Ffermio **9.30** Ralïo+ **10.00** Dan Do (r) **10.30-11.35** Jason Mohammad: Stadiymau'r Byd (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Also available online and on tablet

Digital subscribers can now use our interactive seven-day guide with comprehensive listings of all TV channels
thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Monday 15

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain **10.00** Frontline Fightback **10.45** Defenders UK (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Luca turns to unusual methods to help a patient **2.15** Money for Nothing. New series. Sarah Moore presents the show from Wallyford Recycling Centre **3.00** Escape to the Country. Sonali Shah is house-hunting in Norfolk **3.45** The Bidding Room. Dealers bid on a tribal mask and a vintage seed drill (r) **4.30** The Repair Shop. Jay Blades and the team restore a precious diary all the way from Bangladesh (r) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



Daytime drama Doctors (1.45pm)

7.00 The One Show Presented by Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas

7.30 EastEnders The bailiffs come to clear the Slaters out of house and home as their money issues become too great

8.00 Panorama Investigating clinics offering adults ADHD assessment. **See Viewing Guide**

8.30 Scam Interceptors Rav Wilding uses cutting-edge technology to monitor cyber criminals to stop real-time scams (5/10) (r)

9.00 Steeltown Murders New series. As the CID reopen an investigation into three murders from 1973, DCI Paul Bethell tries to piece together a past that has haunted both him and a community for almost 30 years. **See Viewing Guide** (1/4)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

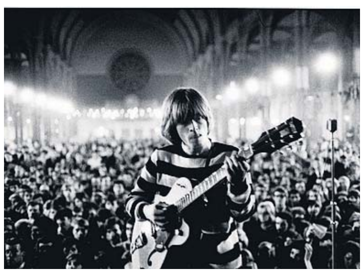
10.40 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Diane Morgan hosts an extended edition of the current affairs quiz (5/10) (r)

11.25 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star The nine remaining make-up artists work with members of the public to create looks for Sephora's 'Express all of you' beauty campaign under the watchful eye of Brand Director Arieta Mujay and Patrick Ta with the successful looks to be featured in the campaign (2/8) (r)

12.25am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.30** BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.45am Bargain Hunt (r) **7.30** Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Rick Stein's Cornwall (r) (SL) **8.30** Designing the Hebrides (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible. Quiz, hosted by Rick Edwards (r) **1.45** Eggheads. Quiz show hosted by Jeremy Vine (r) **2.15** Eat Well for Less?. A Bridgend couple improve their mealtimes (r) **3.15** Secret Britain (r) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The contestants transform rental apartments in Manchester (r) **5.15** Flog It! The team are in East Sussex (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Nabil Abdulrashid, Luke Kempner, Sarah Millican and Philippa Perry (r) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip. The newsreader heads to the medieval Tuscan town of Barga



The Stones and Brian Jones (9pm)

7.00 Digging for Britain Alice Roberts visits more archaeological sites around the country, with digs in southern England revealing a previously unknown Roman town and a Tudor ship buried beneath a quarry (1/6) (r)

8.00 Grand Tours of Scotland's Rivers Paul explores the lower reaches of the Spey (3/6)

8.30 University Challenge The first of the semi-finals. Jeremy Paxman asks the questions

9.00 The Stones and Brian Jones Nick Broomfield examines the life and legacy of the founder member of the Rolling Stones, looking at the relationships and rivalries within the band in their formative years. Featuring revealing interviews with all the main players and previously unseen archive footage. **See Viewing Guide**

10.30 Newsnight The day's important national and international news stories, with Victoria Derbyshire

11.15 FILM Colette (15, 2018) A woman is persuaded to write up her semi-autobiographical tales, which become a sensation when published under her husband's name. Biopic with Keira Knightley and Fiona Shaw. **See Film Choice**

1.00am Sign Zone: Countryfile. Matt Baker and Margherita Taylor revisit the New Forest, 10 months on from their first visit (r) (SL) **1.55-2.55** Reunion Hotel. A woman thanks the fundraisers who helped her little girl to walk. Last in the series (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Celebrity interviews and studio discussion from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the team visit Aerospace Bristol, where Mark Stevens hits a slight problem when he attempts to buy a pair of luxury watches (r) **3.00** Tenable. Family team the Mancunian Jacks take it in turns to find the answers to top 10 lists (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes **5.00** The Chase. Quiz series, hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



Dark drama Without a Sin (9pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Mack is shamed as Moira pieces his lies together, but her words eventually leave him spurred-on to fix things

8.00 Coronation Street Amy tells Mia she was raped by Aaron, but when her warning backfires, Steve encourages his daughter to deal with the injustice in a different way. Miley admits how much she is going to miss Faye, who hides her emotions

9.00 Without Sin New series. A woman meets the man imprisoned for the murder of her daughter as part of the Restorative Justice programme. Psychological thriller starring Vicky McClure and Johnny Harris. **See Viewing Guide** (1/4)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 Unbelievable Moments Caught on Camera A selection of extraordinary eyewitness footage, including the dramatic moment a man in danger of being swept over a steep waterfall is rescued from a fast-flowing icy river (r)

11.40 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Hard-hitting action from the world of All Elite Wrestling (r)

1.15am Teleshopping **3.00** Alison Hammond in at the Rich End: The Riviera. The presenter attempts to find out what makes the super-rich tick (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Made in Britain. Documentary (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Annie MacManus is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. Sharon and Shaun catch up with a couple who wanted to swap the UK for Spain (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. House hunting in Spain's Costa Blanca **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. A couple from Norwich find shoes in their bread oven (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Marge starts a carpentry business (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Sam is determined to do whatever it takes to help his girlfriend Zoe's career (r)



Rescue: Extreme Medics (9pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 Sarah Beeny's New Life in the Country Sarah and husband Graham discover a whole load of odd antiques and family heirlooms, which they use to transform their downstairs cloakroom into a Victorian cupboard of curiosities (5/7)

9.00 Rescue: Extreme Medics New series. An air ambulance is dispatched to help a 23-year-old rally driver who rolled his car down a 20-foot embankment on the island of Mull. Plus, a coast guard helicopter flies to a remote sea loch on a mission

10.00 First Dates Guests include a woman whose exes tend to marry someone else soon after the break-up, who is paired with a wedding photographer and a former youth Olympic trampolinist fears his ginger hair is holding him back

11.05 Naked Attraction Anna Richardson is joined by a 25-year-old movie buff and professional online gamer from Camberley who is looking for a geeky gamer to be her perfect player two so she can reboot her love life (r)

12.10am 999: On the Front Line (r) **1.05** Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **1.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **2.45** Grand Designs (r) (SL) **3.40** George Clarke's Amazing Spaces (r) (SL) **4.35** One-Pan Wonders (r) **5.00** Comfort Food (r) **5.15** Moneybags (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. New series. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. New series. The important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Justin goes into protective father mode (r) **2.15** FILM **A Date With Deceit (12, TVM, 2023)** A woman recently released from prison tries to prove her innocence by tracking down her ex-husband, who framed her for fraud. Thriller starring Hannah Jane McMurray **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. After investing in their Spanish bar, a duo faces uncertain times (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. The Baggards take on the experts (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Airedale Terriers take on the regular quiz experts (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



Police Interceptors (8pm)

7.00 Traffic Cops A PC attends a fatal collision involving a motorcycle and car, where he and a Sgt secure the site for crash investigators, to find out what happened (6/11) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Police Interceptors New series. A dog handler finds himself on the tail of a runaway Renault Clio, while two officers receive intelligence that a residential home is emitting a familiar aroma of marijuana; followed by 5 News Update

9.00 Motorway Cops: Catching Britain's Speeders Officers are on the tail of thieves who have stolen more than £5,000 worth of luxury goods from a Cheshire shop and the chase takes them into Manchester city centre at rush hour (7/10)

10.00 Ambulance: Code Red A major accident leaves a driver trapped in his car after it went out of control, smashed into a wall and flipped sideways onto a driveway, requiring all of the emergency services (r)

11.05 999: Critical Condition Following a car crash, a 26-year-old is rushed into hospital suffering from a potentially life-threatening aortic tear, while a university student is rushed in to have a tumour removed (r)

12.05am Police Interceptors (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Walking Britain's Lost Railways (r) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Milkshake! (r) (SL) **5.40** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.45** Paw Patrol (r) (SL)

Monday 15 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview FS Freesat



Dame Edna
One More Audience with the comedy creation of the late Barry Humphries
ITV3, 9pm

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max An insight into the day's top stories
6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host tears his way through the morning newspapers
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The host guides you through the big stories of the day
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live The host takes on some of the issues that really matter
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his unmissable verdict on the day's global events
9.00 The Talk A panel of famous faces debate the hot topics everybody's talking about
10.00 First Edition An energetic look at tomorrow's news
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear (4/7)
8.00 The Catch Up
8.05 Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton Amir gives the Bolton lads a wedding hall tour (3/8)
8.30 Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton Amir reveals how not fighting has impacted his mental health (4/8)
9.00 I Kissed a Boy New boy Mikey turns some heads, while Ben questions his feelings for Ollie, and the masseria sees its first love triangle (2/8)
9.50 Jesy Nelson: Odd One Out The former Little Mix star goes on a journey of rehabilitation, as she opens up about abuse she has suffered at the hands of cyberbullies and its effects on her mental health
10.50 Fleabag (1/6)
11.15 Fleabag (2/6)
11.45-12.40am I Kissed a Boy (2/8)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Paul Merson: A Walk Through My Life The football pundit walks in North Yorkshire, reflecting on his life and career
8.00 Mindful Escapes: Breathe, Release, Restore Why breathing is so important to becoming still (1/4)
8.30 Life of a Mountain: A Year on Helvellyn A year in the life of the Lake District's most popular peak
10.00 The Sky at Night The team explores the threat of an asteroid impact on Earth
10.30 The Fifteen Billion Pound Railway (1/2) Following the final stages of the construction of London's Crossrail (1/2)
11.30-12.30am Building Britain's Biggest Nuclear Power Station (1/2) The challenges involved with building the Hinkley Point C nuclear power station (1/2)

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Escape to the Château: DIY Tim and Rebecca renovate their kitchen, but with a limited budget, they need a bit of creative know-how (4/15)
7.55 Grand Designs A GP and his wife, an alternative medicine practitioner, have decided to build a new home at the bottom of their garden, but cannot agree on any part of the design
9.00 Car S.O.S. Tim and Fuzz are off to Huddersfield to rescue a 37-year-old's 1992 VW Corrado (2/10)
10.00 Inside Bentley: A Great British Motor Car Behind the scenes at the car company's factory
11.00-12.05am 24 Hours in A&E Cameras follow a 54-year-old man who arrives at St George's hospital with symptoms of a suspected stroke (9/9)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood Bill worries about what the future might hold for Sookie, Jesus becomes interested in V, and Jessica is torn when Hoyt and Tommy fight for her affections (10/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Margaery and her grandmother encourage Sansa to speak freely about Joffrey, Jaime finds a way to pass the time, and Arya encounters outlaw group the Brotherhood Without Banners (2/10) (R)
9.00 Succession Drama about a dysfunctional media dynasty starring Jeremy Strong and Sarah Snook. **See Viewing Guide** (8/10)
10.10 Patrick Melrose Patrick attends his mother's funeral. Drama starring Benedict Cumberbatch (5/5) (R)
11.20-12.25am Billions Axe considers giving half his net worth to charity (4/12) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

6.50pm Hillary The first political transformation of Hillary Clinton, providing an intimate portrait of the former first lady (1/4) (R)
8.00 Escobar by Escobar The story behind the cursed Escobar empire, following the fortunes of Juan Pablo, who was the sole heir to the biggest drug dealer in history (1/4) (R)
9.00 FILM Robin Williams: Come Inside My Mind (12, 2018) An intimate portrait of the life and work of the beloved comedian and actor, Robin Williams, featuring previously unseen footage and interviews with those closest to him
11.20-12.20am The Man Who Played with Fire Documentary about the assassination of Swedish prime minister Olof Palme in 1986 (1/4) (R)

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore An attempted robbery causes headaches for the employees
7.30 Superstore A dead body is found in the drywall at Cloud 9
8.00 Bob's Burgers
8.30 Bob's Burgers
9.00 Family Guy
9.30 Family Guy
10.00 Family Guy
10.30 Family Guy
11.05 Family Guy
11.35 American Dad!
12.00-12.30am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

6.55pm Heartbeat Gina finds true love at last, while Greengrass attempts to organise Aidensfield's car rally — an event guaranteed not to pass without incident
8.00 Agatha Christie's Poirot A man receives threatening letters
9.00 One More Audience with Dame Edna The outrageous Dame Edna — also known as the late comedian Barry Humphries — subjects her celebrity audience to her unique brand of humour
10.00-12.05am Wire in the Blood

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.55pm BattleBots World-class robots Bronco and Bombshell go head to head as the elite group of robots compete for the title of *BattleBots* World Champion
8.00 MotoGP Highlights The Grand Prix de France, action from the fifth round of the season
9.00 FILM Collateral Damage (15, 2002) Action thriller starring Arnold Schwarzenegger
11.15-12.15am FILM The Rock (15, 1996) Action thriller starring Sean Connery and Nicolas Cage

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Norma finally reveals the truth to Warren
7.30 The Big Bang Theory
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht New series. Following the crew and passengers of luxury yacht Parsifal III, where tensions begin to brew between new and existing staff
9.00 The Big Celebrity Detox New series. Eight famous faces live together at a retreat (1/8)
10.05 Made in Chelsea Ollie and Gareth introduce their surrogate
11.05-12.10am Gogglebox

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games With Lolly Adefope, Sarah Greene and Miles Jupp
7.35 Richard Osman's House of Games With Rick Edwards, Scarlett Moffatt and David O'Doherty
8.20 Room 101 With Larry Lamb
9.00 Have I Got a Bit More 2018 News for You An extended compilation of the most memorable news stories of 2018
10.00 QI XL With Josh Widdicombe
11.00 Alan Davies: As Yet Untitled
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine A package puts Clegg in a spot of bother. Peter Sallis stars
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine The pensioners come across a couple whose car is stuck in a remote field
8.00 Jonathan Creek Feature-length special. A body vanishes from a locked study
10.00 New Tricks Gerry and Steve investigate the unsolved murder of a bookie in Glasgow
11.20-1.20am Silent Witness A woman is strangled

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam Documentary (4/6)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam The steamship (5/6)
8.00 How To Build A Motor Car Witnessing how the Morgan Plus Six sportscar is hand-built
9.00 Abandoned Engineering New series. Exploring Air Studios, on the Island of Montserrat
10.00 Bangers and Cash (2/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys (9/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.20pm Children of the Sun A look at long-lost empires, beginning with the Aztecs (1/3)
7.25 Asteroid Rush A look into the work being done by scientists to identify dangerous asteroids (1/2)
8.35 A War on Trial The full story of the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia (1/2)
9.40 Israel: A Twice Promised Land A two part documentary on Israel after World War Two (1/2)
10.55 Asteroid Rush (1/2)
12.00-1.15am A War on Trial (1/2)

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Pavarotti: The Duets: The Best of Pavarotti and Friends The operatic tenor collaborates with a host of stars within the industry as Luciano Pavarotti's legacy lives on
8.35 Andre Rieu: Live at the Royal Albert Hall The acclaimed violinist performs a programme including *Voices of Spring*, *Vienna Blood* and *The Blue Danube* by Johann Strauss II on New Year's Eve 2001
10.35-12.35am HMS Pinafore with ENO A performance of Gilbert and Sullivan's comic opera

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire
8.00 Deep Water Salvage Chris Ward sets out to salvage a light aircraft sitting on the seabed
9.00 Secret Societies: In the Shadows The enduring influence of the Illuminati secret order
10.00 Greatest Heists with Pierce Brosnan How thieves carried out a robbery at New York's Pierre Hotel
11.00 Great Escapes with Morgan Freeman Factual crime (3/8)
12.00-1.00am Looting History An incident involving stolen loot (6/8)

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate SG-1
8.00 NCIS: Los Angeles The team assists the cold case homicide unit
9.00 Bel-Air Will alienates himself from the basketball team (2/10)
10.00 Rob & Romesh vs Team GB: Part 1 Rob and Romesh try their hand at weightlifting, hockey and slalom canoe to see if they too could be part of Team GB (5/7)
11.00 Rob & Romesh vs Team GB: Part 2 Rob and Romesh try clay pigeon shooting and gymnastics
12.00-1.00am The Force

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation Investigating the crash of Lauda Air flight 004 in May 1991
8.00 Unknown Waters with Jeremy Wade The angler journeys through Iceland's river systems in search of the Atlantic salmon (2/3)
9.00 Air Crash Investigation
10.00 Car S.O.S. The boys head to Somerset to restore a Jeep
11.00 World War II: The Apocalypse (6/6)
12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Kindig Customs
8.00 Gold Divers
9.00 Wheeler Dealers Mike Brewer is on a mission to restore cars
10.00 Roadworthy Rescues Derek returns to the shop where he apprenticed as a teenager
11.00 Naked and Afraid XL
12.00-1.00am The Alaska Triangle

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Breeders (2/10)
7.30 Young Rock (2/13)
8.00 The Office (US)
8.30 The Office (US)
9.00 Barry Starring Bill Hader (6/8)
9.40 The Righteous Gemstones
10.20 Amy Schumer: Live at the Apollo Stand-up comedy
11.35-12.15am Silicon Valley (1/10)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends
9.00 Impractical Jokers: British Invasion The guys head to London
10.00 Impractical Jokers
10.30 Impractical Jokers
11.00 Reno 911!
11.30 Reno 911!
12.00-1.00am Rhod Gilbert's Growing Pains

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Hi-de-Hi!
7.40 Dad's Army
8.20 Dad's Army
9.00 dinnerladies
9.40 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
10.20 Live at the Apollo
11.20 Mrs Brown's Boys
12.00-12.40am Absolutely Fabulous Comedy

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Inside the Ambulance A young man has a seizure
8.00 DIY SOS: The Big Build The team renovates a Telford home for a 12-year-old cancer sufferer
9.00 24 Hours in A&E
10.00 999 Rescue Squad
11.00-12.20am Louis Theroux: Transgender Kids

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Person of Interest Reese and Finch manage to reboot the Machine (2/13)
8.00 Father Brown The father of a writer is found dead (7/15)
9.00 Death in Paradise (8/8)
10.00 Father Brown (8/15)
11.00 Without a Trace
12.00-1.00am The Coroner (8/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

3.00pm Live Indian Premier League: Gujarat Titans v Sunrisers Hyderabad Live coverage of the T20 match from Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
7.00 Live MNF: Leicester City v Liverpool (Kick-off **8.00**) Coverage of the Premier League match from King Power Stadium, as the home side face a tough test in their continuing quest to stay in the top flight
11.00-12.00m't Sky Sports News Round-up of the sports news

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm Live MNF: Leicester City v Liverpool (Kick-off **8.00**) Coverage of the Premier League match from King Power Stadium, as the home side face a tough test in their continuing quest to stay in the top flight
11.00 Behind the Game The latest episode of *Behind the Game* featuring Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale and rapper Bugzy Malone
11.30-12.00m't Premier League Icons A profile of Luis Suarez



Mohamed Salah is set to line up for Liverpool against Leicester City (Sky Main Event, 7pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

2.50pm Live Indian Premier League: Gujarat Titans v Sunrisers Hyderabad Live coverage of the T20 match from Narendra Modi Stadium, Ahmedabad
7.00 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket
7.30 T20 Blast 2018
8.00 T20 Blast 2007
9.00 IPL Action from Gujarat Titans v Sunrisers Hyderabad
10.00 County Championship Cricket Surrey v Middlesex
11.00-12.00m't IPL Action from Gujarat Titans v Hyderabad

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

7.00pm Uefa Champions League Magazine The latest news
7.30 Live Serie A: Sampdoria v Empoli (Kick-off **7.45**) Coverage of the Italian top-flight match at Stadio Luigi Ferraris
9.45 BT Sport Goals Reload
10.15 What I Wore
10.30 ESPN FC Presents: Gab & Juls All the latest news and gossip
11.00pm-12.00m't WWE Raw Highlights Wrestling action
1.00-4.15am Live WWE Monday Night Raw Wrestling coverage

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

10.00-3.30pm Live Badminton Coverage of day two of the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals, which takes place at Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China
5.00pm Gallagher Premiership Rugby Union
8.00 PSA Squash Highlights
9.00-12.30am Live MLB: Washington Nationals v New York Mets (Start-time **9.05**)
3.00-8.30am Live Badminton Coverage of day three of the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup

Monday 15

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Texas Lady (U, 1955) Western starring Claudette Colbert and Barry Sullivan **12.45pm Ministry of Fear (PG, 1944)** Spy thriller starring Ray Milland, Marjorie Reynolds, Carl Esmond **2.30 Three Hours to Kill (PG, 1954)** Western starring Dana Andrews and Donna Reed **4.05 The Quiet Man (U, 1952)** Comedy drama with John Wayne and Maureen O'Hara **6.45 The Devil Wears Prada (PG, 2006)** Comedy drama starring Meryl Streep, Anne Hathaway and Emily Blunt **9.00 Jojo Rabbit (12, 2019)** Comedy with Roman Griffin Davis and Taika Waititi **11.10-1.45am Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (12, 2016)** Adventure starring Eva Green and Asa Butterfield

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am What a Whopper! (PG, 1961) Comedy starring Adam Faith and Sid James **7.45 The Wedding of Lilli Marlene (U, 1953)** Drama sequel starring Lisa Daniely **9.30 Two on the Tiles (PG, 1951)** Comedy with Herbert Lom and Hugh McDermott **11.00 The Spaniard's Curse (U, 1958)** Thriller with Tony Wright and Lee Patterson **12.35pm Night Boat to Dublin (PG, 1946)** Second World War spy thriller starring Robert Newton and Raymond Lovell **2.30 Crown Court 3.00 SOS Pacific (PG, 1959)** Adventure starring Richard Attenborough and Pier Angeli **4.45 Dangerous Cargo (PG, 1954)** Crime drama with Jack Watling and Susan Stephen **6.00 The Footage Detectives 7.00 The Champions 8.00 The Main Chance 9.00 Strange Days (18, 1995)** Sci-fi thriller starring Ralph Fiennes and Angela Bassett **11.50-12.55am Secret Army**

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Lost Letter Mysteries: Second Chances 10.50 GREAT! Movie News 11.00 Reap What You Sew: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2018) Crime drama with Candace Cameron Bure **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News 1.00 Garage Sale Mystery: Pandora's Box (PG, 2018)** Mystery starring Lori Loughlin and Sarah Strange **2.50 GREAT! Movie News 3.00 Framed for Murder: A Fixer Upper Mystery (PG, 2017)** Mystery starring Jewel Kilcher and Colin Ferguson **4.50 GREAT! Movie News 5.00 Surrounded By Lies (PG, 2019)** Thriller starring Sarah Roemer and Jon Prescott



Sci-fi thriller Strange Days (Talking Pictures TV, 9pm)

6.50 GREAT! Movie News 7.00 Secrets That Kill (12, 2020) Thriller starring Jillian Murray and Lisa Thornhill **8.50 GREAT! Movie News 9.00 The American (15, 2010)** Thriller starring George Clooney and Violante Placido **11.10-1.00am Disturbing the Peace (15, 2020)** Thriller with Guy Pearce and Devon Sawa

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am TCM Shorts 6.20 Off Set 6.35 Knights of the Round Table (PG, 1953) Medieval adventure with Robert Taylor **8.55 Rio Bravo (PG, 1959)** Western with John Wayne **11.50 Murder at the Gallop (U, 1963)** Miss Marple mystery starring Margaret Rutherford **1.30pm The Naked Spur (PG, 1953)** Western starring James Stewart and Ralph Meeker **3.25 King of the Wild Stallions (U, 1959)** Westernwith Diane Brewster, Edgar Buchanan and George Montgomery **5.00 Gun Glory (U, 1957)** Western with Stewart Granger **6.50 The Hanging Tree (PG, 1959)** Western with Gary Cooper and Maria Schell **9.00 Hell Ride (15, 2008)** Crime thriller starring Larry Bishop and Michael Madsen **10.50-12.40am Hallowe'en 4: The Return of Michael Myers (18, 1988)** Horror with Donald Pleasence and Ellie Cornell

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.10pm Dead Shot (15, 2023) Thriller starring Colin Morgan **2.10 The Old Way (15, 2023)** Western starring Nicolas Cage **4.00 Ticket to Paradise (12, 2022)** Comedy romance starring George Clooney **6.00 Vengeance (15, 2022)** A writer attempts to solve the murder of a young woman he hooked up with. Mystery drama with BJ Novak and Lio Tipton. **See Film Choice 8.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville **10.10-12.10am Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Colin Morgan and Felicity Jones

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Afternoons on Times Radio **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Blues Show with Cerys Matthews **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **2.30am** One Hit Wonders **3.00** Tracks of My Years **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast 9.00 Essential Classics 12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky Exploring the composer's ballets **1.00pm Live Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Hannah French presents a recital from London's Wigmore Hall, with violinist Alina Ibragimova and pianist Cédric Tiberghien. Schumann (Violin Sonata No 1 in A minor, Op 105 and Violin Sonata No 2 in D minor, Op 121) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** Penny Gore begins a week of programmes featuring the Ulster Orchestra performing at Belfast's Ulster Hall. Gershwin (*An American in Paris*); Schumann (*Overture to Manfred*, Op 115); Antheil (Trumpet Sonata); Beethoven (Symphony No 4 in B flat) and Dvorak (*The Wild Dove*) **4.30 New Generation Artists 5.00 In Tune** With Esther Yoo **7.00 Classical Mixtape** Petroc Trelawny shares music he has turned to in times of trouble **7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** A concert from the 2022 Salzburg Festival, with Maxime Pascal conducting the SWR Symphony Orchestra in Honegger's oratorio *Joan of Arc at the Stake* **9.00 Ultimate Calm** Soothing songs inspired by water **10.00 Music Matters** (r) **10.45 The Essay: De Waal's Itinerant Pots** Edmund de Waal explores the influence of Hans Coper on his work (r) **11.00 Night Tracks 12.30am Through the Night** (r)

Today's pick

The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece, by Tom Hanks
Radio 4, 10.45pm

The award-winning actor Tom Hanks, *right*, is also a keen wordsmith. In 2017 he published *Uncommon Type*, a collection of short stories, and his debut novel is today's book at bedtime. It is written in the voice of Joe Shaw, a film journalist commissioned by the director Bill Johnson to chart the making of his latest project. It is essentially



Hanks's take on the business — on the ugly side of the ledger is the film's star OK Bailey, who fails to meet Hanks's prime rule for being a performer: just turn up on time. Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 5.58 Tweet of the Day (r) **6.00 Today** News headlines **9.00 Start the Week** Discussing banking ethics **9.45 Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police** Matt Lloyd-Rose describes his year as a special constable, beginning as he heads out on his first shift (1/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 Blood on the Dance Floor** Jordan Dunbar looks at the night of the killing (4/6) **11.30 Lady Killers with Lucy Worsley** The story of a nurse with a penchant for poisoning **12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 You and Yours 1.00 The World at One 1.45 Frontlines of Journalism** The difficulties of getting to the truth of a news story **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 This Cultural Life** (r) **3.00 Round Britain Quiz 3.30 The Food Programme** (r) **4.00 Is Psychiatry Working: Anxiety** Documentary **4.30 Beyond Belief 5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Just a Minute 7.00 The Archers** Tempers flare at Bridge Farm **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 Buying a British Dad 8.30 Crossing Continents** (r) **9.00 Supersenses** A look at AI sensing technology (r) **9.30 Start the Week** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece** By Tom Hanks. The actor's debut novel. **See Choice** (1/10) **11.00 Word of Mouth** (r) **11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News and Weather 12.30am Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police** (1/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **10.00** Colin Murray. Late night chat **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off: Leicester City v Liverpool (Kick-off **8.00**). **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** Julia Hartley-Brewer **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle. Debates **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am Round the Horne **8.30** Dry Slopes **9.00** The Write Stuff **9.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **10.00** Dangerous Samples **11.00** Peeler **11.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **12.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **12.15pm** Young Victoria **12.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **1.00** Round the Horne **1.30** Dry Slopes **2.00** The Write Stuff **2.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet **3.00** Dangerous Samples **4.00** Peeler **4.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **5.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **5.15** Young Victoria **5.30** Alexei Sayle's Imaginary Sandwich Bar **6.00** Round the Horne **6.30** Dry Slopes **7.00** The Write Stuff **7.30** Double Income, No Kids Yet. By David Spicer **8.00** Radiolab **8.55** Inheritance Tracks **9.00** Mastertapes **9.30** A Gathering Light **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth **10.00** Comedy Club: Just a Minute **10.30** And Now in Colour **11.00** The News Quiz **11.30** The Skivers

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** CrowdScience **10.00** News **10.06** The History Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Conversation **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** CrowdScience **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.06** From Our Own Correspondent **8.30** Discovery **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** The Conversation **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The History Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** The Documentary **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** In the Studio

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Lauren Laverne **10.30** Mary Anne Hobbs **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** Marc Riley. With a live session by the Wedding Present **9.00** Deb Grant **12.00** Nick Cave: In Their Own Words. A profile **1.00am** Nick Cave and the Birthday Party: Peel Sessions

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics. With Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Sam Pittis **4.00** Early Breakfast

Tuesday 16 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice Anna Nicole Smith: You Don't Know Me

Netflix

In the 1990s Anna Nicole Smith's marriage to the oil billionaire J Howard Marshall 14 months before his death made her an emblem of busty blonde gold diggers the world over. Ursula Macfarlane's brilliantly executed and thoughtful two-hour film wants to reconsider the story entirely. It is, nevertheless, still an intensely bleak one that, thanks to the exhaustive amounts of archived footage (and private phone recordings), is perhaps a tad overlong in its acutely detailed chronicle of her downward spiral. A small-town Texas girl from a rackety home, she always yearned for protection from the world, but the world didn't usually deliver. Another key part of the narrative is that Smith, *right*, was clearly capable of love, perhaps even for someone 63 years her senior (she was 26 and he was 89 when they married). As we follow her heady days as stripper, paparazzo darling and Playmate model, before drug addiction and an unhappy legal battle over Marshall's estate, her charisma shines through. You spend the whole time wishing her well, even if you know how terribly it will all end. Another key component of this film is the tender, thoughtful interviews with people who knew her. Her one-time lover "Missy" was clearly devoted to her until drugs and fame made Smith impossible to be around. Unfortunately she was also attractive to the long-lost biological father she met in 1993 and who, after their reunion, apparently made sexual advances. Before the drugs took over there is no doubt how vivacious and kind she was, until her death, aged 39. Ben Dowell



Forensics: The Real CSI

BBC2, 9pm

Voiced by an actress, a young woman recounts in chilling detail being dragged from a Birmingham street and raped in a building undergoing renovation. Doing what she was told was, she says, her best chance of surviving. Very often a rape victim is known to the perpetrator, we're told, but the randomness of this attack means a very dangerous stranger is still out there, before we witness in slow, compelling detail how forensics officers set about finding him. We're now on series three and this continues to be high-grade, sensitive programme-making. **BD**

Grand Designs: The Streets

Channel 4, 9pm

Kevin McCloud is back on the trail of the UK's largest mass self-build site at Graven Hill in Oxfordshire, following new developments and revisiting familiar sites. The focus this week is on two Yorkshire families. Nicola is designing and project-managing a traditional red-brick home with a modern twist, but things go awry when the centrepiece — a spectacular triangular window — doesn't fit. Nearby, Matt and Maryellen have differences of opinion about their Brazilian-inspired home, with flamboyant colours and textures and a butterfly roof. **BD**

Rebekah Vardy: Jehovah's Witnesses and Me

CHannel 4, 10pm

A little-known fact about the footballer's wife and key figure in the Wagatha Christie courtroom saga is that she grew up a Jehovah's Witness. In this latest celebrity tell-all she says that the religion failed to support her through sexual abuse and shunned her as a child. She examines what happened and how it affected her. She meets former members of the faith and interviews a victim of child abuse and the mother of a man who took his life after the organisation expelled him. **BD**

Storyville

BBC4, 10pm

When the Brooklyn-based Hasidic rabbi Eliezer Shlomo Schick, known as Mohorosh, died in 2015, his followers could not believe that someone who meant so much to them had left the Earth. At the start of this film, subtitled *In the Name of the Father*, they discuss him in extraordinary terms, with one using the word "messiah". However, the fallout on the community he established in Israel was seismic, with stories emerging of sexual abuse and under-age marriages, according to some first-person testimony. While the director Bat Dor Ojalvo is even handed, this is a disturbing insight into a little-known world. **BD**

Films of the day

Watchmen (18, 2009)

Film4, 10.50pm

Zack Snyder brings his ultra-stylised aesthetic to Alan Moore's much-loved comic book, and the result is a reasonably successful adaptation. Snyder's decision to cast character actors such as Jackie Earle Haley and Billy Crudup in key roles pays off — there's a lot more to get your teeth into than in the average comic-book flick. The story is set in an alternative 1985, when superheroes have been banned and war between America and the Soviet Union is imminent. Haley plays Rorschach, one of the few active vigilante superheroes left. After the unexplained death of the Comedian, a former superhero, Rorschach realises that there is a nefarious plan afoot that puts all his costumed colleagues in peril. It's gritty, nihilistic and unexpectedly sexy. (167min) **Wendy Ide**



Moonlight (15, 2016)

BBC2, 11.15pm

Barry Jenkins's elegiac, raw, painful triple-Oscar-winner explores the strangeness of growing up gay in Miami's black community in the 1980s. Three actors play Chiron, the lead character, at different stages — at elementary school, as a teenager and as a twentysomething — while the British actress Naomie Harris is Chiron's single mother, who begins as a robust full-time health worker and ends all bones, wild eyes and manic desperation as a drug addict, needy for her son and emotionally manipulative. This may sound like the usual crack-addled gloom, but the film (an adaptation of Tarell Alvin McCraney's play) confounds expectations by making its hero a drugs kingpin with a heart of gold (Mahershala Ali, *above*). (108min) **Kate Muir**

Catch up

Hijacked: Flight 73
Sky/Now

On September 5, 1986, Pan Am Flight 73 from Bombay to New York was stormed by four Palestinian terrorists while on the ground in Karachi, Pakistan, *right*. The Boeing 747 had 360 passengers on board of 14 nationalities who endured a terrifying 16-hour ordeal; 21 would lose their lives. This new docudrama from the Bafta-winning director Ben Anthony (*Grenfell*, *7/7: One Day in London*) tells the terrifying story of the day, with accounts from survivors. "I was never in doubt they would shoot me," says Mike Thexton, a Brit returning from a mountaineering trek. "I thought, 'Somebody is going to die today, and it's going to be me.'" The film also covers the subsequent FBI manhunt, which inflamed simmering tensions between the West and the Middle East. **Joe Clay**



Regional programmes

● **BBC2 Wales As BBC2 except: 1.45pm** First Minister's Questions. Mark Drakeford answers questions from the Senedd **2.45** Impossible (r) **3.30-4.00pm** Eggheads (r)
● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 6.55-7.00pm** Party Election Broadcast (r) **10.40** Spotlight **11.10** Rain Dogs. Costello falls back into bad habits as her and Iris prepare to leave London **11.40** The Truth About Improving Your Mental Health. The latest science on how to improve mental wellbeing (r) **12.40-6.00am** BBC News
● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 7.00-7.30pm** River City. Alex worries his fling with Nicole could jeopardise his family (r) **11.10** The Edit (r) **11.25** The Truth About Improving Your Mental Health (r) **12.25am** Weather for the Week Ahead **12.30-6.00am** BBC News
● **ITV1 Wales As ITV1 except: 8.00pm** Wales This Week **8.30-9.00pm** Welsh Lives. Following the BTM Brass Band from Bedwas in the Rhymney Valley
● **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight **11.05** Unbelievable Moments Caught on Camera (r) **12.00-3.00** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision
● **UTV As ITV1 except: 6.20-6.30pm** Party Election Broadcast **8.00-9.00pm** UTV at the Show. The Balmoral Show
● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** Inside the Zoo (r) **8.00** Paramedics on Scene (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Guilt. Max has a plan to seize Sturrock's money from Maggie. Last in the series **11.00** David Wilson's Crime Files: Cold Cases. The criminologist explores the concept of police confirmation bias (r) **11.30pm-Midnight** Rip It Up Unwrapped (r)
● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw **12.00** News **12.05pm** Cegin Bryn: Yn Ffrainc (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Pobol y Penwythnos (r) **1.30** Ffermio (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Drych: Dyfodol i Dewi (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Sali Mali (r) **4.05** Jamborî (r) **4.15** Sam Tân (r) **4.25** Sion y Chef (r) **4.40** Kim a Cet a Twrch (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Dennis a Dannedd (r) **5.15** Bwystfil (r) **5.25** Siwrne Ni (r) **5.30** Hei Hanes! (r) **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Ralïo+ (r) **6.30** Ffilmiau Ddoe (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Rownd a Rownd. Sophie is determined to help Mair do better than Anna at school **8.55** News **9.00** Ffit Cymru. The leaders complete the FFIT Cymru 5K National Challenge **10.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia. Highlights of stage 10 **10.45** Blacowt. The team identify two of the saboteurs **11.40-12.15** Goreuon Gwesty Aduniad (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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Tuesday 16

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain **10.00** Frontline Fightback **10.45** Defenders UK (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Sid and Kirsty rally under pressure **2.15** Money for Nothing. Jacqui Joseph saves four bar stools, a cast-iron bench and a wardrobe from the tip (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. A buyer from Surrey is looking for a home in Cornwall **3.45** The Bidding Room. Items include a set of medical posters and a life-size ceramic sheep (r) **4.30** The Repair Shop. Items include a vintage vacuum cleaner and a doll's tea set (r) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



Waterloo Road returns (8pm)

7.00 The One Show Topical reports and live chat with Lauren Laverne and Jermaine Jenas

7.30 EastEnders Kim organises a leaving party for Lola, Eve becomes suspicious of Stacey, and Elaine wants rid of Alfie

8.00 Waterloo Road New series. Kim is rocked by a blast from the past and a new pupil causes problems. Meanwhile, Joe and Mike begin to question their future as they are faced with the realities of fatherhood (1/7)

9.00 MasterChef The first challenge of Knockout Week sees the cooks making dishes they would put in their cookbook before being thrown in at the deep end in a busy lunch service at a restaurant

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 Rain Dogs Costello falls back into bad habits as her and Iris prepare to leave London (7/8)

11.10 The Truth About Improving Your Mental Health Over the past year, a team from Imperial College London have surveyed the mental health of over 350,000 people across the UK during the Covid-19 pandemic. Now, Professor Tanya Byron joins former England footballer Alex Scott to discover how the latest science can improve mental health and wellbeing (r)

12.10am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.15** BBC News. The latest updates

BBC2

6.30am Bargain Hunt (r) **7.15** Escape to the Country (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Coast to Coast Food Festival (r) (SL) **8.30** Coastal Defenders (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** The Super League Show. Action from the latest fixtures (r) **1.45** Impossible (r) **2.30** Eggheads (r) **3.00** Eat Well for Less? (r) **4.00** Beechgrove Repotted (r) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The designers transform the bedrooms of a grand hotel in Surrey (r) **5.15** Flog It! (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Nabil Abdulrashid, Luke Kempner, Sarah Millican and Philippa Perry (r) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip. Clive visits Bologna, considered by many to be Italy's food capital, where he leans to make perfect pasta



Forensics: The Real CSI (9pm)

7.00 Digging for Britain Alice Roberts visits more archaeological digs, including a spectacular monument older than Stonehenge, a 200-year-old mine trapped in time and a lost medieval friary (2/6) (r)

8.00 Inside the Factory Gregg Wallace visits the Denby factory in Derbyshire, which has been making pottery since 1809. Cherry Healey visits a car factory that uses clay to make models of its designs (8/10) (r)

9.00 Forensics: The Real CSI New series. The forensics team must identify and arrest a rapist through information provided by the victim and digital evidence recovered from the crime scene. **See Viewing Guide** (1/4)

10.00 Colin from Accounts Ashley takes Gordon to her birthday dinner (6/8)

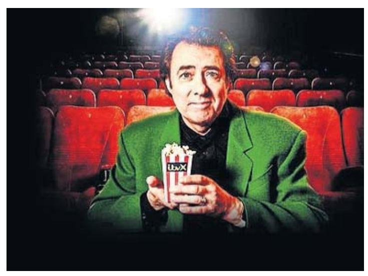
10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events, with Kirsty Wark

11.15 FILM Moonlight (15, 2016) A young African-American man grapples with his identity while experiencing the struggles of childhood, adolescence and adulthood. Drama starring Mahershala Ali. **See Film Guide**

1.00am Sign Zone: Murder in the Pacific. Examining the bombing of Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior* (r) (SL) **1.45** MasterChef. Nine more contenders enter the kitchen in the fourth round of heats (r) (SL) **2.45-3.15** A Special School (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Topical debate **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson helps members of the public in Crewe sort the treasures from their trash, including a cheeky chimp, a collection of autographs, and some modern art (r) **3.00** Tenable. Quiz hosted by Sally Lindsay in which a team of charity colleagues answers questions about top 10 lists (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



Film buff Jonathan Ross (10.45pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Caleb continues to take an interest in Moira's financial hardship, hoping he can persuade her to sell

8.00 Love Your Garden Alan Titchmarsh and his team are in Northamptonshire to help overhaul a firefighter's garden, creating a space that can accommodate gym equipment, a play area and a vegetable patch

9.00 Without Sin Charles tries to convince Stella that he was set-up by a notorious crime family, but she struggles to believe what he tells her as she learns more about his dark past. Psychological thriller starring Vicky McClure (2/4)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; followed by Weather

10.30 Regional News; followed by Regional Weather

10.45 Jonathan Ross' Must-Watch Films Films include *The Big Lebowski* and *The Crow*

11.15 British Touring Car Championship Highlights Action from the second meeting of the season at Brands Hatch. With commentary from David Addison and Tim Harvey, and reports by Louise Goodman

12.30am Teleshopping **3.00** Monster Carp. Ali Hamidi seeks out giant carp across the world in the ultimate angling adventure (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Bling. Gok Wan helps Kiran transform a stunning diamond ring into a necklace (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Annie Macmanus is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. A couple search for their perfect Spanish home on a budget of €295,000 (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Danni Menzies helps a couple find a holiday home in Correze, France **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. The owners of a hamlet in France welcome guests to a 50th birthday party (r) **6.00** The Simpsons (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Norma finally reveals the truth to Warren (r)



Rebekah Vardy (10pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 The Greatest Auction AJ Odudu hosts as collectors bid for a pinball machine signed by Elton John, a fork liberated from Saddam Hussein's palace and a prototype mid-century chair

9.00 Grand Designs: The Streets New series. Two families from Yorkshire jump into the world of self-builds at the deep end and figure it out as they go along. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 Rebekah Vardy: Jehovah's Witnesses and Me Rebekah shares her experiences of growing up as a Jehovah's Witness including how the religion failed to support her through sexual abuse. **See Viewing Guide**

11.05 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on shows from late 2021, including *I'm a Celebrity*, *True Story*, *Miriam and Alan: Lost in Scotland*, *Tiger King 2*, *Close to Me* and *Inside Beverly Hills: The Land of the Rich and Famous* (r)

12.05am Gogglebox (r) (SL) **1.05** Taskmaster (r) (SL) **2.00** The Lateish Show with Mo Gilligan. With Jessie Ware (r) **2.55** The Curse (r) (SL) **3.25** The Curse (r) (SL) **3.50** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **4.45** Jamie's One-Pan Wonders (r) **5.10** Moneybags (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. Important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. An enraged Justin is pulled off a severely beaten Conor (r) **2.15** FILM **The Disappearance of Cari Farver (12, TVM, 2022)** Dave finds himself on the receiving end of twisted messages from his girlfriend, Cari Farver, who abruptly disappears. Thriller starring Zach Gilford **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. A new arrival in Saydo Park discovers the joys of drag at the age of 66 (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. The Peter Crouch Fan Club attempt to beat the experts (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Mon the Dale from Glasgow take on the experts (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



The Big Steam Adventure (9pm)

7.00 Michael Portillo's Pyrenees Adventure The broadcaster embarks on a journey of self-discovery, walking stretches of the Pyrenees mountain range (1/4) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 The Yorkshire Vet Peter has his hands full when not one, but two wild owls are brought into his practice in need of help, and Shona rushes to the aid of a horse that has tread on a nail; followed by 5 News Update

9.00 The Big Steam Adventure As the trio embark on the last leg of their journey, they travel from Whitby via Beamish and the River Tyne, before reaching the Scottish border. Last in the series

10.00 The Lie: Murder in Suburbia The dramatic twists and turns of the investigation into Rachel O'Reilly's murder in 2004, and the devastating impact it had on her loved ones, featuring testimony from those who were closest to the case (r)

11.55 Born to Kill? The psychology of Charles Manson (1/6) (r)

12.55am Entertainment News **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Good Girls' Guide to Kinky Sex (r) **3.45** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.30** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **4.55** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.20** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures (r) **5.30** Pip and Posy (r)

Tuesday 16 | Primetime digital guide

FV Freeview FS Freesat



Perry Mason

Matthew Rhys is the titular lawyer as series two of the 1930s-set drama continues
Sky Atlantic, 10.05pm

TalkTV

FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max An insight into the day's top stories
6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host tears his way through the morning newspapers
1.00pm Ian Collins Monologues, stimulating debates and dedicated time for your calls
4.00 Vanessa Feltz Vanessa guides you through the big stories of the day
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his verdict on the day's global events with an hour of debate and straight-talking interviews
9.00 The Talk A panel of famous faces debate the hot topics everybody's talking about
10.00 First Edition
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored

BBC3

FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear Luxury limousines are put through an endurance test (4/5)
8.05 Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton The couple clash at home before a big family trip to New York (5/8) (R)
8.35 Meet the Khans: Big in Bolton Amir puts a pause on training for a trip to Dubai for some shopping (6/8)
9.00 The Apprentice Australia The candidates are challenged to design a range of intimate underwear (7/16)
10.10 The Young Offenders Jock misses the first scan of his and Siobhan's baby (1/6)
10.40 The Young Offenders Conor is jealous when a new pupil who has childhood ties with Jock arrives at school (2/6)
11.10 I Kissed a Boy Dannii Minogue presents a dating show for gay men (1/8)
12.00-12.50am I Kissed a Boy (2/8)

BBC4

FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Railways: The Making of a Nation Documentary examining the impact of railways on Britain (1/6)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam Early steam experiments for road use (4/6)
8.00 As Time Goes By Jean receives an invitation (5/7)
8.30 Whatever Happened to the Likely Lads? Bob takes Terry on a tour of their old haunts. James Bolam stars (4/13)
9.00 Dam Busters Declassified The actor Martin Shaw takes to the skies to retrace the 1943 raid by 617 Squadron
10.00 In the Name of the Father: Storyville The devastating scandal facing an Orthodox Hasidic community after the death of its leader. **See Viewing Guide**
11.30-12.30am Britain and the Sea David Dimbleby learns about invasion and defence in the south east (2/4)

More 4

FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Escape to the Château: DIY A couple struggle to complete their kitchen (5/15)
7.55 Grand Designs A couple build a shed-like family home and workspace at an old milk yard in south-east London, but their choice of unconventional, industrial-style materials proves challenging
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A woman is rushed in after being involved in a car crash, while a man is transferred from his local hospital with suspected internal bleeding
10.00 Super Surgeons: A Chance at Life Professor Vin Paleri attempts to reconstruct a patient's entire windpipe. Last in the series (R)
11.05-12.10am 999: On the Front Line Paramedics find a woman collapsed on the floor and on the verge of a diabetic coma (9/10)

Sky Atlantic

SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood Eric puts his plan to kill Russell into effect, Lafayette suffers another bad V trip, and Sookie imagines a life without Bill and his fellow vampires (12/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Tyrion assumes new responsibilities, Jon is taken to the imposing Fist of the First Men, Jaime strikes a deal with his captors and Daenerys meets with the slavers (3/10) (R)
9.00 Gangs of London The truth about Finn's murder is finally revealed (7/9) (R)
10.05 Perry Mason Perry and Della try to build a defence for their clients (3/8)
11.10 Dreamland Trish and Spence win their dream house at auction (6/6) (R)
11.40-12.50am Treme The Mardi Gras celebrations get under way (7/11) (R)

Sky Documentaries

SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

6.50pm Hillary A look at Hillary Clinton's debut on the national stage and her transformative turn as the first lady of the United States (2/4) (R)
8.00 FILM Lancaster (PG, 2022) The story of the legendary bomber synonymous with the Dambusters, the night raids against Germany and the brave men and women who made them possible
10.10 The Man Who Played with Fire Documentary in which Jan Stocklassa investigates the assassination of prime minister of Sweden Olof Palme in 1986 using the personal files of the writer Stieg Larsson (1/4) (R)
11.10-1.00am FILM Who Killed the KLF? (15, 2021) The rise and fall of the KLF in the 1980s and 1990s, touching upon themes that capture the 21st-century zeitgeist

ITV2

FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore Amy and Jonah offer an alternative to Cloud 9's terrible health insurance plan
7.30 Superstore
8.00 Bob's Burgers
8.30 Bob's Burgers
9.00 Hell's Kitchen The competitors cook dishes with ingredients from different cities
10.00 Plebs (7/8)
10.30 Plebs (8/8)
11.05 Family Guy
11.30 Family Guy
12.00-12.30am American Dad!

ITV3

FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

7.00pm Heartbeat Bellamy's childhood sweetheart returns to Aidensfield and uncovers a secret
8.00 Midsomer Murders Joyce Barnaby is involved in a car accident, and when a body is found in a cemetery she thinks she is to blame, leading Tom into an investigation to find the real killer
10.00-12.05am Wire in the Blood The murder of two youngsters in ritual slayings leads the team to investigate black magic — a case that turns personal for Alex (2/5)

ITV4

FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.55pm BattleBots Rookie bot End Game and former *BattleBots* champ Bite Force compete
8.00 World Rally Championship Highlights Action from the Vodafone Rally de Portugal
9.00 FILM The A-Team (12, 2010) Four soldiers jailed for a crime they did not commit escape from prison and track down the culprit. Action adventure starring Liam Neeson and Bradley Cooper
11.25-12.35am All Elite Wrestling: Rampage Hard-hitting action

E4

FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Dave tries to give Sam some words of advice
7.30 The Big Bang Theory
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht The captain attempts a risky manoeuvre while climbing the mast to fix a broken sail
9.00 The Big Celebrity Detox Kerry Katona throws herself into the therapies with gusto (2/8)
10.00 The Inbetweeners Simon's principles are put to the test
10.35 The Inbetweeners
11.05-12.10am Naked Attraction

Dave

FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games Trivia-based games
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games Trivia-based games
8.20 Room 101 With Alice Cooper, Chris Tarrant and Chris Packham
9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Hosted by Clive Myrie with Andy Hamilton and Helen Lewis
10.00 QI XL With Sarah Millican, Cariad Lloyd and Alice Levine
11.00 Meet the Richardsons
11.40-12.20am Would I Lie to You?: The Unseen Bits Series highlights

Drama

FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Compo is stunned by the sight of Nora Batty's new legwear
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine The villagers prepare for Compo's funeral. Starring Peter Sallis
8.00 Dalziel & Pascoe When a woman is found dead at a health spa, a convalescing Dalziel decides to mix business with pleasure
10.00 New Tricks The team attempt to unmask an assassin
11.20-1.25am Silent Witness An elderly woman is murdered

Yesterday

FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Fred Dibnah's Age of Steam Documentary (6/6)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain Documentary (1/6)
8.00 Joanna Lumley's India Joanna visits the Maharaja of Dungarpur (2/3)
9.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics An Austin Montego (1/6)
10.00 Bangers and Cash (4/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland In the port of Wexford (11/15)

PBS America

FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.20pm Children of the Sun The rise and fall of the Inca empire (2/3)
7.30 Asteroid Rush Taking a look into the work being done by scientists to identify potentially dangerous asteroids (2/2)
8.35 A War on Trial An examination of the success of the ICTY (2/2)
9.40 Israel: A Twice Promised Land The second of a two part documentary on Israel after the Second World War (2/2)
10.55 Asteroid Rush (2/2)
12.00-1.15am A War on Trial (2/2)

Sky Arts

FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm The Art of the Garden Luciano Giubbilei's stunning garden in Tuscany (2/6)
8.00 The Artist's Garden: American Impressionism
9.00 The Grapes of Wrath: The Ghost of Modern America
10.00 Margaret Atwood: A Word After a Word After a Word Is Power Following the Canadian author over the course of a year
12.00-2.15am FILM Dean Martin: King of Cool (PG, 2021) A profile of the singer and actor

Sky History

SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire
8.00 Mystery Places A visit to Abu Dhabi's impressive Masdar City
9.00 Looting History How an expert in Khmer antiquities saw his world crumble (7/8)
10.00 The Abyss: Rise & Fall of the Nazis The Nazis' defeat at Stalingrad in 1943 (9/10)
11.00 Ancient Aliens New evidence reveals that celestial objects have been sent by an alien intelligence
12.00-1.00am The Curse of Oak Island An exciting find is made

Sky Max

SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate SG-1 O'Neill is hunted by a disgruntled citizen
8.00 The Flash Things go awry when Ramsey Rosso crashes a surprise party for Barry (9/13)
9.00 Fantasy Island A percussionist wants to be accepted by her Cuban family (4/10)
10.00 Flintoff: Lord of the Fries Freddie and Rob enjoy the sights and sounds of Scotland (4/6)
11.00 S.W.A.T. The unit teams up with the FBI to hunt for a fugitive
12.00-1.00am The Force

Nat Geographic

SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation Investigating the crash of a Boeing 737 in a remote jungle
8.00 UFOs: Investigating the Unknown The malfunction of US nuclear missiles after a UFO encounter leaves America defenceless (2/5)
9.00 The Truth Behind How easy it can be to fake a photo of a UFO
10.00 The Truth Behind (4/5)
11.00 Hitler Youth (1/2)
12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation Documentary

Discovery

SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Bitchin' Rides
8.00 Gold Divers
9.00 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail Parker chases down mining leads
10.00 Gold Rush: White Water Dakota Fred and his son Dustin risk their lives to find a fortune in gold
11.00 Naked and Afraid XL
12.00-1.00am The Alaska Triangle

Sky Comedy

SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Breeders (4/10)
7.30 Young Rock (3/13)
8.00 The Office (US)
8.30 The Office (US)
9.00 Somebody Somewhere (1/8)
10.45 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon With Ray Romano
11.45-12.45am The Reluctant Landlord Sitcom (5&6/6)

Comedy Central

SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends
7.30 Friends
8.00 Friends
8.30 Friends
9.00 FILM You, Me and Dupree (12, 2006) Starring Owen Wilson
11.00 Reno 911!
11.30 Reno 911!
12.00-12.30am Impractical Jokers

Gold

SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Hi-de-Hi! The new controller upsets Peggy
7.40 Dad's Army
8.20 Dad's Army
9.00 dinnerladies
9.40 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
10.20 Mrs Brown's Boys
11.00 Live at the Apollo
12.00-12.40am Mrs Brown's Boys

W

FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

6.00pm MasterChef Australia
7.20 MasterChef Australia
8.30 Inside the Ambulance
9.00 24 Hours in A&E
10.00 999 Rescue Squad
11.00 Louis Theroux: Extreme Love: Dementia
12.00-1.00am Inside the Ambulance Documentary

Alibi

SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Person of Interest (3/13)
8.00 Father Brown (9/15)
9.00 Miss Scarlet and the Duke Eliza receives a bomb in the morning post. Last in the series
10.00 Death in Paradise A bus passenger is stabbed (1/8)
11.00 Without a Trace
12.00-1.00am The Coroner (9/10)

Sky Main Event

SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

3.00pm Live Indian Premier League: Lucknow Super Giants v Mumbai Indians Coverage of the T20 match from Bharat Ratna Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Ekana Cricket Stadium, Lucknow
7.00 Sky Sports News
7.30 Live EFL Coverage of a Championship semi-final second-leg match (Kick-off **8.00**)
10.30 Back Pages Tonight
11.00-12.00m't Sky Sports News
2.00-4.30am Live NBA Basketball Coverage of a play-off match

Sky Premier League

SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm PL Review
8.00 Gary Neville's Soccerbox With Phil Neville (2/6)
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox Gary sits down with Liverpool legend John Barnes (3/6)
9.00 Behind the Game The latest episode features Arsenal goalkeeper Aaron Ramsdale and rapper Bugzy Malone
9.30 PL Review A look back at the weekend's action
10.30-12.30am PL Retro Leicester City v West Ham United from 2016



Kate Phillips and Stuart Martin in the series finale of Miss Scarlet and the Duke (Alibi, 9pm)

Sky Cricket

SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

2.50pm Live Indian Premier League: Lucknow Super Giants v Mumbai Indians
7.00 T20 Blast 2006
7.15 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket Action from Sussex v Hampshire in the 2004 competition
7.45 Best of T20 Blast Finals Day
8.00 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket
9.00 IPL Action from Lucknow Super Giants v Mumbai Indians
10.00 IPL Action from Gujarat Titans v Sunrisers Hyderabad
11.00-12.00m't IPL

BT Sport 1

SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

7.00pm Live Uefa Champions League: Inter Milan v AC Milan (Kick-off **8.00**). Coverage of the semi-final second-leg tie from San Siro, where the city rivals face each other for the fifth time this season
10.30 The Football's On A look at the week's football stories with Ian Stone and guests
11.30 Premier League Reload
11.45-12.00m't Ariel Helwani Meets With WWE star Sami Zayn
1.00-3.15am Live WWE NXT Wrestling coverage

BT Sport 2

SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

10.00am-3.30pm Live Badminton Coverage of day three of the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals, which takes place at Suzhou, Jiangsu Province, China
7.00 BT Sport Fight Night Ellis Zorro v Hosea Burton
9.00 WWE Monday Night Raw
11.30 MotoGP Rewind
11.45 BT Sport Goals Reload
12.00-3.30am Live MLB: New York Mets v Tampa Bay Rays (Start-time **12.10**). Coverage of the inter-league match from Citi Field

Tuesday 16

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Legend of the Lost (U, 1957) Adventure starring John Wayne and Sophia Loren **1.15pm Born Free (U, 1966)** Drama starring Virginia McKenna and Bill Travers **3.05 The Wrong Box (U, 1966)** Black comedy starring Ralph Richardson and John Mills **5.15 Man of the West (12, 1958)** Western starring Gary Cooper and Lee J Cobb **7.15 Daddy's Home (12, 2015)** Comedy starring Will Ferrell **9.00 Jungleland (15, 2019)** Premiere. Drama with Charlie Hunnam and Jack O'Connell **10.50-2.05am Watchmen (18, 2009)** Comic-book drama with Patrick Wilson and Jackie Earle Haley. **See Film Choice**

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am 13 East Street (PG, 1952) Thriller with Patrick Holt **7.10 Sherlock Holmes 7.45 Dusty Ermine (U, 1936)** Crime drama with Anthony Bushell and Jane Baxter **9.30 Interpol Calling 10.00 Francis of Assisi (PG, 1961)** Biopic starring Bradford Dillman and Dolores Hart **12.10pm Look at Life 12.25 The Stars Look Down (U, 1940)** Drama with Michael Redgrave, Nancy Price and Margaret Lockwood **2.20 Floodtide (PG, 1949)** Drama with Gordon Jackson **4.10 The Ghost of Greville Lodge (PG, 2000)** Family drama starring George Cole and Prunella Scales **6.00 Colonel March of Scotland Yard 6.30 Scotland Yard 7.05 Danger UXB 8.05 The Human Jungle 9.05 Maigret 10.55 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro 11.00-1.15am The Mephisto Waltz (15, 1971)** Horror starring Jacqueline Bisset

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Lost Letter Mysteries: Reconcilable Differences Drama **10.50 GREAT! Movie News 11.00 The Disappearing Game: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2018)** Drama with Candace Cameron Bure **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News 1.00 A Case of Murder: Garage Sale Mystery (PG, 2017)** Thriller starring Lori Loughlin and Sarah Strange **2.50 GREAT! Movie News 3.00 Concrete Evidence: A Fixer Upper Mystery (PG, 2017)** Drama starring Jewel Kilcher and Colin Ferguson **4.50 GREAT! Movie News 5.00 Reflections (15, 2008)** Thriller with Timothy Hutton and Miguel Angel Silvestre



Jacqueline Bisset stars (Talking Pictures TV, 11pm)

6.55 GREAT! Movie News 7.05 Stolen Daughter (PG, 2015) Drama starring Andrea Roth and Nicole Munoz **9.00 Terminator Salvation (12, 2009)** Sci-fi thriller sequel starring Christian Bale **11.15-1.35am Alpha Dog (15, 2006)** Fact-based crime drama starring Emile Hirsch

TCM Movies
SKY 315

7.20am The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (PG, 1948) Western with Humphrey Bogart and Walter Huston **9.55 The Train Robbers (U, 1973)** Western starring John Wayne and Rod Taylor **11.50 The Bounty Hunter (PG, 1954)** Western with Randolph Scott and Dolores Dorn **1.30pm Cattle King (U, 1963)** Western starring Robert Taylor and Joan Caulfield **3.20 The Younger Brothers (U, 1949)** Western starring Wayne Morris and Janis Paige **5.00 Vengeance Valley (PG, 1951)** Western starring Burt Lancaster and Robert Walker **6.45 3 Godfathers (U, 1948)** Western starring John Wayne and Pedro Armendariz **9.00 Dirty Harry (15, 1971)** Police thriller starring Clint Eastwood and Andy Robinson **11.10-1.05am 24 Hours to Live (15, 2017)** Sci-fi thriller starring Ethan Hawke and Qing Xu

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.05pm Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022) Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville and Isabelle Huppert **2.05 Vengeance (15, 2022)** Mystery drama starring BJ Novak and Boyd Holbrook **4.05 Ticket to Paradise (12, 2022)** Comedy romance starring George Clooney **6.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville **8.00 Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Colin Morgan **10.00 The Old Way (15, 2023)** Western starring Nicolas Cage and Ryan Kiera Armstrong **11.50-1.45am Piggy (18, 2022)** Horror starring Laura Galan and Richard Holmes

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell. The Leaders' Panel with former Conservative Party leader William Hague and former Scottish Labour leader Kezia Dugdale **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup. With Ruby Wax **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. With guest Annie Mac **5.00** John Pienaar **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** Jamie Cullum **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation. Soulful tunes **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Pick of the Pops (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast 9.00 Essential Classics 12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky The composer's life after the completion of *Swan Lake*. **See Choice 1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** The Spanish baroque ensemble L'apotheose perform. Tommaso Giordani (Trio No.3 in D major); Jose Herrando (Sonata in A major for violin and basso continuo) and Cayetano Brunetti (Trío No.6 in D major) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** Penny Gore continues this week's spotlight on the Ulster Orchestra. Roussel (*Le festin de l'araignée*); Strozzi (*Sospira, respire*, Op.6'17); Tchaikovsky (*Romeo and Juliet*); Beethoven (Violin Concerto in D major, Op.61); Stravinsky (Octet for Winds) and Poulenc (Concerto for Two Pianos in D minor) **5.00 In Tune** Music news **7.00 Classical Mixtape** Pieces to console the mind **7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** Edward Gardner conducts the London Philharmonic Orchestra. Brett Dean (*In spe contra spem* — world premiere) and Mahler (Symphony No. 5) **10.00 Free Thinking** The writing of authors including NoViolet Bulawayo and Dambudzo Marechera **10.45 The Essay: De Waal's Itinerant Pots** Links between ceramics and stories (r) **11.00 Night Tracks 12.30am Through the Night**

Today's pick

Composer of the Week
Radio 3, noon
This week Donald Macleod has been exploring Tchaikovsky's dancing roots in the company of the British ballet stars Matthew Bourne and Monica Mason. Today, Mason reflects on working with the choreographers Frederick Ashton and Kenneth MacMillan, while Bourne talks about how he devised his celebrated version of the *Dance of the Cygnets* from *Swan Lake* and how the choreographer



George Balanchine influenced his work. In tomorrow's episode he explains how a visit to the home of Tchaikovsky, *above*, prompted him to take on *The Sleeping Beauty*. Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 5.58 Tweet of the Day (r) **6.00 Today 8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament** Political news **9.00 The Long View 9.30 Metamorphosis: How Insects Transformed Our World** Namib desert beetles (r) **9.45 Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police** By Matt Lloyd-Rose. Read by Jack Parris (2/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 Supersenses** (5/5) **11.30 Sound Towns** Charting the story of Warp Records **12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 Call You and Yours 1.00 The World at One 1.45 Frontlines of Journalism 2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: Downstream 3.00 The Kitchen Cabinet** (r) **3.30 Costing the Earth 4.00 The Hidden Masters of the Universe** Documentary **4.30 Great Lives** Jon Ronson speaks about Terry Hall **5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Wosson Cornwall** (4/4) **7.00 The Archers** Neil finds himself with a dilemma **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 Who Gets In? Affirmative Action on Trial** A court case challenging the way race is considered in the admissions process at Harvard (3/3) **8.40 In Touch 9.00 All in the Mind 9.30 The Long View** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece** By Tom Hanks (2/10) **11.00 The Confessional** (r) **11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News and Weather 12.30am Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police** (2/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **10.30** Colin Murray. Late night chat **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **12.00** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle. Political debate **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am The Goon Show **8.30** Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel **9.00** The Motion Show **9.30** Big Town All Stars **10.00** Parson Harding's Daughter **10.30** Peeler **11.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **12.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **12.15pm** Young Victoria **12.30** North by Northamptonshire **1.00** The Goon Show **1.30** Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel **2.00** The Motion Show **2.30** Big Town All Stars **3.00** Parson Harding's Daughter **4.00** Peeler. With Mick Ford **4.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **5.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine. By Hannah Fry **5.15** Young Victoria **5.30** North by Northamptonshire **6.00** The Goon Show **6.30** Flywheel, Shyster and Flywheel **7.00** The Motion Show **7.30** Big Town All Stars **8.00** TED Radio Hour **8.50** Inheritance Tracks **9.00** Mastertapes **9.30** A Gathering Light **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth **10.00** Comedy Club: Wosson Cornwall **10.30** The Jason Byrne Show. Stand-up and sketches **11.00** The (Almost) Accidental Adventures of Bell and Todd **11.15** Paperback Hell **11.30** ElvenQuest

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** The Documentary **10.00** News **10.06** The Arts Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** In the Studio **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Discovery **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** People Fixing the World **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** The Documentary **8.30** Tech Tent **9.00** Newshour **10.06** People Fixing the World **10.30** In the Studio **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The Arts Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** The Climate Question **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** The Documentary

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Lauren Laverne **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** Marc Riley **9.00** Deb Grant **12.00** 6 Music Artist in Residence **1.00am** Caribou's Slow Sunday Special (r)

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Sam Pittis **4.00** Early Breakfast

Wednesday 17 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
High Desert
AppleTV+

There's some serious star power driving this moreish eight-part comedy drama, executive-produced by Ben Stiller. Patricia Arquette plays Peggy, *right*, who with her bleach-blonde hair, new age kaftans and addled air resembles a slightly more together version of Jennifer Coolidge's Tanya in *The White Lotus*. In the opening scene Peggy is entertaining friends and family for Thanksgiving at the modernist pad belonging to her mother (the Broadway star Bernadette Peters) in the small desert town of Yucca Valley, California. This scene is upended by the arrival of a phalanx of armed DEA agents, who storm the house while Peggy and her husband, Denny (Matt Dillon), frantically try to dispose of a serious quantity of drugs that are stashed all over the property. We then flash forward ten years, with Peggy in addiction recovery. She has a job performing in a live revue in a tacky frontier theme park and is grieving the recent death of her mother. Her uptight younger siblings want to kick her out of the house and, determined to make a new start, she decides to divorce the incarcerated Denny and reinvent herself as a private investigator. Completing the cast are Rupert Friend (*Homeland*) as a former news anchor turned mystic desert dude, and Weruche Opia (*I May Destroy You*) as Peggy's best friend, Carol. There is solid pedigree behind the camera too — it was created and written by Nancy Fichman, Jennifer Hoppe-House (*Nurse Jackie*, *Damages*) and Katie Ford (*Miss Congeniality*), while all eight episodes are directed by the experienced Hollywood film-maker Jay Roach (*Meet the Parents*). Joe Clay



Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction
BBC1, 9pm

There's a serious look at addiction in this raw, honest documentary from Matt Willis, a the member of the punk-pop band Busted. After years of abusing drugs and alcohol, he faces a daily struggle to stay clean. He is "terrified" of relapsing, so sets out to learn more about addiction and what help is available. He revisits his childhood home to explore whether the cause of his addictions can be found in his past. Willis's wife, the TV presenter Emma Willis (they have three children), tearfully reveals how his addictions affected the family. **JC**

11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting
BBC2, 9pm/9.50pm

Stephen Paddock murdered 60 people when he opened fire on the crowd at the Route 91 Harvest country music festival in Las Vegas on October 1, 2017. From his 32nd-floor suite in the Mandalay Bay hotel he fired more than a thousand rounds. About 867 more people were injured, many in the ensuing stampede. This four-part documentary tells the tale of that night, with harrowing testimony from those who were there, including Jason Aldean, who was performing when the shooting started. **JC**

Rookie Nurses
BBC3, 9pm/9.30pm

It's scrubs on, game on in this new medical ob-doc series following seven newly qualified nurses in hospitals across mid and west Wales. Some have only been qualified for a matter of days, yet have to be ready for whatever challenges the shift throws at them. Among the nurses we meet in the first of tonight's double bill is 24-year-old Leah, who works in the orthopaedics and trauma ward at Bronglais Hospital in Aberystwyth. She is tending to a patient who is in a remarkably upbeat mood after being involved in a lawnmower accident that ended with an amputation (there are graphic images of his injury). **JC**

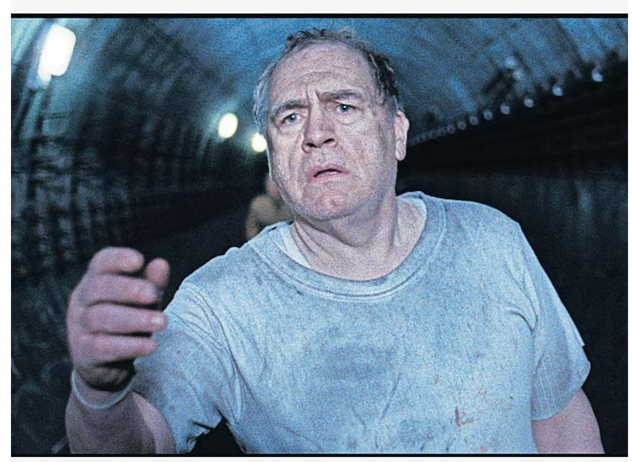
Pat and Margaret
BBC4, 10.10pm

Victoria Wood's bittersweet 1994 comedy drama was commissioned by Alan Yentob for the prestigious Screen One strand. The story follows two sisters — the frumpy Margaret (Wood), a cook at a motorway service station, and the glamorous actress Pat (Julie Walters), who has made it big starring in an American soap. The pair have been estranged for 27 years and endure an uncomfortable reunion under the glare of TV cameras. Before this, at 10pm, the longtime Wood collaborator Duncan Preston, who played Margaret's boyfriend, Jim, in the drama, looks back on making the Bafta-nominated TV play. **JC**

Films of the day

Flight (15, 2012)
Film4, 9pm

We meet the airline pilot Captain Whip Whitaker (Denzel Washington) in a darkened room in a squat concrete airport hotel. Every available surface is covered with the detritus of a wild night: whisky dregs and lolling beer bottles, brimful makeshift ashtrays. A lissom air stewardess detaches her thong from a light fitting and a fug of smoke hangs in the air, blurring the morning like the bruising hangover that the captain is nursing. Breakfast is a telephone argument with his ex-wife, a slurp of flat beer, a cigarette and a line of cocaine. Despite this Whip manages to land a failing plane with minimum loss of life just an hour or so later. He's a hero. Or is he? The investigation into the crash reveals some uncomfortable truths about Whip's state at the time. (139min) **Wendy Ide**



The Escapist (15, 2008)
Film4, 1.50am

A career criminal who is content to keep his head down and serve his time receives shocking news about the six-year-old daughter he left when he was sent down. Suddenly Frank (Brian Cox, *above*) feels that he urgently needs to reconnect with his family. However, the only way out of jail is to break out, and the only way to do that is to work alongside some pretty unsavoury characters. The debut film from Rupert Wyatt (who went on to direct *Rise of the Planet of the Apes*) is a satisfying nailbiter with a tricksy, time-jumping, twist-heavy plot, a refreshingly spare approach to dialogue and a fine all-male ensemble cast that also includes Dominic Cooper, Damian Lewis, Joseph Fiennes and Seu Jorge. (97min) **WI**

Catch up

Queen Charlotte: A Bridgerton Story
Netflix

As fans await the third season of the period drama, here's a new series that expands the Bridgerton-verse. Shonda Rhimes (*Grey's Anatomy*, *Scandal*) writes and produces the origin story, which explores the events that led to Queen Charlotte's betrothal to King George III. The *Bridgerton* actresses Golda Rosheuvel (Queen Charlotte), Adjoa Andoh (Lady Danbury) and Ruth Gemmell (Violet Bridgerton) reprise their roles in the six-part spin-off, with new actors playing their characters' younger selves, including India Amarteifio, *left*, as Charlotte. We meet her as a minor German princess travelling to London after being "summoned" for the equivalent of an arranged marriage to George (Corey Mylchreest). The princess is not pleased and attempts to flee the palace, aided by a man who turns out to be the person from whom she is trying to escape. Sparks fly. **Joe Clay**



Regional programmes

● **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** BBC Wales Live **11.10** You Don't Look... Diabetic. Laura Gardner uses special effects make-up to help visualise type one diabetes **11.20** I Kissed a Boy (r) **12.05-1.00am** I Kissed a Boy (r)
● **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** Nolan Live. Lively debate on issues affecting Northern Ireland, with Stephen Nolan **11.40** I Kissed a Boy. Dannii Minogue presents a dating show for gay men (r) **12.30am** I Kissed a Boy (r) **1.20-6.00am** BBC News
● **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 11.15pm** Spotlight (r) **11.45** Unspun World with John Simpson. The week's major global news stories **12.15-12.45am** Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing (r)
● **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 2.15pm** Politics Scotland **3.00-3.45** Money for Nothing. The team head to Beaconsfield where Jacqui transforms a tired toolbox **12.20am** Scottish Questions. Monthly question-and-answer session **12.50** Debate Night (r) **1.50** Weather for the Week Ahead **1.55-6.00am** BBC News
● **STV As ITV1 except: 10.30pm** STV News **10.40** Scotland Tonight. Current affairs show that tackles the issues behind the headlines **11.05pm-Midnight** Peston **4.15-5.35am** Night Vision
● **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** Secret Body (r) **8.00** Fake or Fortune? (r) **9.00** The Nine **10.00** River City. DCI Shaw confronts Lou about her tattoo **10.30** Debate Night. Topical debate on the big issues affecting Scotland and beyond **11.30pm-Midnight** Two Doors Down. Christine needs the Bairds' help in buying a baby buggy (r)
● **S4C 6.00am** Cyw **12.00** News **12.05pm** Dau Gi Bach (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **1.30** Garddio a Mwy (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Iaith ar Daith (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Cymylaubychain (r) **4.10** Tomos a'i Ffrindau (r) **4.20** Anifeiliaid Bach y Byd (r) **4.30** Stiw (r) **4.45** Cacamwnci (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Dewi a'r Ditectifs Gwyllt (r) **5.10** Y Dyfnfor (r) **5.30** Larfa (r) **5.35** Ci Da (r) **5.55** Ffeil **6.00** Dim Byd i'w Wisgo (r) **6.30** Rownd a Rownd (r) **6.57** News **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Pobol y Cwm. Sion's past starts to catch up with him **8.25** Ein Llwybrau Celtaidd. New series. Ryland Teifi and his daughters Lowri and Cifa travel across Ireland and Wales **8.55** News **9.00** Ty am Ddim. New series. Two young people buy their first house in Newport **10.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia. Highlights of stage 11 **10.45** Drych (r) **11.45-12.20** Bwyd Bach Shumana a Catrin (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

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Wednesday 17

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain **10.00** Frontline Fightback **10.45** Defenders UK (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Scarlett and Ollie struggle with their masterplan **2.15** Money for Nothing. The team head to Beaconsfield **3.00** Escape to the Country. Ginny Buckley is joined by her mother in helping a family find a Yorkshire home (r) **3.45** The Bidding Room. Items include a giant fibreglass gorilla (r) **4.30** The Repair Shop. Items include a magician's top hat and a butcher's shop automaton (r) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong and Sally Lindsay (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction (9pm)

7.00 The One Show Live chat and topical reports, presented by Alex Jones and Jermaine Jenas

7.30 EastEnders Lola learns her palliative chemotherapy treatment did not work, and Sonia steps in to help Kim

8.00 The Repair Shop Jay Blades and his team of experts restore a crumbling cast-iron gate that was built as a gift for a woman's late husband, a century-old watch, a rocking chair and a vintage penny arcade game from the 1920s (r)

9.00 Matt Willis: Fighting Addiction Bassist and co-founder of Busted Matt Willis opens up about his experiences battling drug and alcohol addiction and his daily struggle to stay clean and sober. **See Viewing Guide**

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 I Kissed a Boy Dating show for gay men, in which 10 contestants are matched up by kissing before they have spoken to each other (1/8) (r)

11.25 I Kissed a Boy It is the morning after the Pride before and the boys are reeling from the arrival of a new boy, who is already turning some heads, Ben questions his feelings for Ollie, and the masseria sees its first love triangle. Everyone has a big decision to make at the first Kiss-Off (2/8) (r)

12.20am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.25** BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.15am Homes Under the Hammer (r) **7.15** Money for Nothing (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: 24/7 Pet Hospital (r) (SL) **8.30** Take a Hike (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **11.15** Politics Live **1.00pm** Impossible. Quiz, hosted by Rick Edwards (r) **1.45** Eggheads. Quiz show hosted by Jeremy Vine (r) **2.15** Eat Well for Less?. Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin help families lower their food bills (r) **3.15** Secret Britain. Exploring Kent (r) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The designers go back to school (r) **5.15** Flog It!. From Bletchley Park, Buckinghamshire (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. With Nabil Abdulrashid, Luke Kempner, Sarah Millican and Philippa Perry (r) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip. Clive learns how to make tiramisu



Clive Myrie makes tiramisu (6.30pm)

7.00 Digging for Britain Alice visits more archaeological digs around the country, finding out about a gatehouse riddled with Civil War bullets, a unique Iron Age shield made from bark, and Roman burials with pots where the heads should be (3/6) (r)

8.00 Designing the Hebrides Banjo designs a rustic gin-tasting bar. Last in the series (6/6)

8.30 Wales' Home of the Year The five regional winners go head to head for the 2022 title. Last in the series (6/6)

9.00 11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting New series. Documentary about the attack on the 2017 Route 91 Harvest music festival in Las Vegas. **See Viewing Guide** (1/4)

9.50 11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting A look at how a deluge of 911 calls caused concern that multiple shooters. **See Viewing Guide** (2/4)

10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events with Victoria Derbyshire

11.15 Unspun World with John Simpson The week's major global news stories

11.45 Forensics: The Real CSI The forensics team must identify and arrest a rapist through information provided by the victim and evidence recovered from the crime scene (1/4) (r)

12.45am Sign Zone: Gordon Ramsay's Future Food Stars (r) (SL) **1.45** Saving Lives in Leeds (r) (SL) **2.45-3.45** MasterChef. Culinary contest (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Another helping of topical studio discussion from a female perspective, featuring celebrity interviews **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the team are in Sheffield, where David Ford comes across a fancy Russian belt, and Mark Stevens discovers an ancient book of remedies (r) **3.00** Tenable. A family of five from Burnley answers questions about top 10 lists, then tries to score a perfect 10 in the final round (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



Coronation Street (8pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Nicky is stressed after several erroneous attempts to enter Kim's password lock her laptop

8.00 Coronation Street At the garage, Abi and Tyrone tell Aaron they have read Amy's online post and he can find himself another job, while Eric announces he is suing Amy

9.00 Without Sin Stella uncovers a darker side to Maisy, which leads to some home truths about her marriage and her parenting. Yet as the walls close in on Charles in prison, Maisy's secrets also bring Stella closer to Cleo and to the truth (3/4)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 Peston Political magazine show hosted by Robert Peston, featuring major interviews with MPs, topical guests and cultural figures. Including perspectives from experts and key players throughout the programme

11.40 Heathrow: Britain's Busiest Airport Border officers help a student from India (r)

12.00 English Football League Highlights **12.50am** Teleshopping **3.00** Food Prices: How High Will They Go? Tonight (r) (SL) **3.25** Emmerdale: 50 Unforgettable Years (r) (SL) **4.15** Unwind with ITV **5.35** Save Money: Lose Weight (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. Annie Macmanus is in Dictionary Corner **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. Searching for a spacious villa (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Helen and Andrew are looking for a holiday home in Los Gigantes, Tenerife **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. The owners of a hamlet in the Limousin install a £10,000 septic tank (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. With the guest voice of Kiefer Sutherland (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Peri struggles to come to terms with the news about Juliet (r)



Bayley prepares to leave care (9pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 Location, Location, Location In Surrey, Kirstie and Phil are searching for homes to bring their house-hunters closer to family. Kirstie meets a woman who has decided to move out of her flat to her own place in Guildford after a health scare

9.00 Kids Following teenagers in the care of Coventry Children's Services. Seventeen year-old Bayley prepares to leave their care home and Byron shocks everyone by leaving the security of life with long-term foster carers (2/3)

10.00 Naked Attraction Anna Richardson meets a 31-year-old bar supervisor and mum of two from Melton Mowbray who is seeking her own superhero complete with thunder thighs and the smouldering looks of Aquaman

11.05 First Dates Dating show in which singletons meet up with possible partners at a restaurant hoping to find love, before deciding if they want to take things further (r)

12.05am 24 Hours in A&E (r) **1.05** Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **1.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **2.50** Grand Designs: The Streets (r) (SL) **3.45** Unreported World (r) **4.10** The Great British Dig (r) **5.05** Jamie's Comfort Food (r) **5.15** Moneybags (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. Important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Bree tells Remi that she is pregnant, while Felicity and Tane decide to get married (r) **2.15** FILM **Killer in the Attic (PG, TVM, 2021)** A single working mother and her daughter rent a beautiful house from a friendly estate agent, with terrifying consequences. Drama starring Vivica A Fox **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Cameras focus on Jan, who moved to Andalucia 17 years ago (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. Moore's Muppets take on the experts (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Border Raiders take on the quiz experts (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



A museum fossil hunter (8pm)

7.00 Michael Portillo's Pyrenees Adventure Michael's Pyrenean quest continues with the physical challenge of the French High Pyrenees (2/4) (r)

7.55 5 News Update

8.00 Natural History Museum: World of Wonder The Urban Nature Project team start the ambitious transformation of the Natural History Museum garden, and Kieran delicately repairs a 67-million-year-old triceratops fossil (2/4)

9.00 999: Critical Condition A man is rushed in with some of the worst facial injuries the team have ever seen, a woman has been badly injured in a road accident, and another has fallen in a care home

10.00 Casualty 24/7: Every Second Counts Doctors in the accident and emergency department treat a patient in cardiac arrest. Junior doctor George Kay leads the resus team, while Hannah Ryan steps in to head up the nurses (11/12) (r)

11.05 A&E After Dark Doctors treat the victim of a violent attack, a 19-year-old who has crashed his motorbike, and an obese patient who has fallen and is struggling to breathe (3/10) (r)

12.05am 999: Criminals Caught on Camera (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Good Girls' Guide to Kinky Sex (r) **3.45** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.35** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **4.55** House Doctor (r) **5.20** Milkshake! (r) (SL) **5.30** Pip and Posy (r) **5.35** Paw Patrol

Wednesday 17 | Primetime digital guide



The Living Daylights
Timothy Dalton and Maryam d'Abo star
ITV4, 7.45pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max An insight into the day's top stories
6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host tears his way through the morning newspapers
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The host guides you through the big stories of the day
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live The host takes on the issues that really matter
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his verdict on the day's global events and headlines
9.00 The Talk A panel of famous faces debate the hot topics everybody's talking about
10.00 First Edition An energetic look at tomorrow's news
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear (3/7)
8.00 Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (3/8)
9.00 Rookie Nurses New series. The daily reality for new nurses as they deal with life-and-death situations and everything in between. **See Viewing Guide**
9.30 Rookie Nurses Caitlin calms the nerves to get stuck in her first week in A&E, Mikey battles to keep a patient with severe hypothermia alive and a therapy dog is a stroke ward hit. **See Viewing Guide** (2/5)
10.00 FILM **Easy A (15, 2010)** Misfit teenager Olive lies about her non-existent sexual history, and uses the resulting rumours to become the talk of the school. Teen comedy starring Emma Stone
11.30-12.30am Glow Up: Britain's Next Make-Up Star (3/8)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Great Railway Journeys Victoria Wood makes a round trip of northern England and Scotland (1/7)
7.55 Victoria Wood: A Bafta Tribute Julie Walters, Lenny Henry, Richard E Grant and Jim Broadbent gather for a gala honouring the much-loved entertainer
9.00 Victoria Wood: The Secret List Favourite sketches chosen by the comedy actress herself (1/2)
10.00 Duncan Preston Remembers: Pat and Margaret The actor looks back at Victoria Wood's 1994 comedy drama. **See Viewing Guide**
10.10 Pat and Margaret Comedy drama starring Julie Walters and Victoria Wood. **See Viewing Guide**
11.35-12.35am Victoria Wood: The Secret List Favourite sketches (2/2)

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Escape to the Château: DIY Stephanie prepares to throw a Christmas dinner to remember (6/15)
7.55 Grand Designs A couple build their unique take on a 21st-century low-impact family house, high up in the hills of rural Pembrokeshire
9.00 Matt Baker's Travels in the Country: USA The presenter's journey concludes along the west coast of California. Last in the series (6/6)
10.00 Flights from Hell: Caught on Camera Dramatic moments captured on film at airports and on planes
11.05-12.05am 24 Hours in A&E A man suffers serious spinal injuries after falling off a mountain bike. As doctors assess the extent of the damage, his wife recalls growing up in apartheid-era South Africa

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood Sookie tries to adjust to her new living arrangements. Eric crashes a witches' coven meeting, and Hoyt's relationship with Jessica appears to hit the rocks (2/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Varys meets his match when he talks to Lady Olenna, Arya is brought before the commander of the Brotherhood Without Banners and Daenerys takes charge of her army of the Unsullied (4/10) (R)
9.00 Perry Mason Perry and Della try to build a defence for their clients (3/8) (R)
10.05 Succession Drama starring Jeremy Strong (8/10) (R)
11.15 Dreamland Trish and Spence win their dream house at auction (6/6) (R)
11.45-12.55am The Night Of A prison kingpin presents Naz with an offer (3/8) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

6.50pm Hillary How Hillary Clinton evolved into a global feminist icon following major setbacks in Washington DC (3/4) (R)
8.00 Escobar by Escobar The story behind the cursed Escobar empire, following the fortunes of Juan Pablo, who was the sole heir to the biggest drug dealer in history (2/4) (R)
9.00 FILM **Anvil! The Story of Anvil (15, 2008)** Sacha Gervasi's documentary follows Canadian rockers Anvil as they head into the studio to record their 13th album and set off on a ramshackle tour of Europe
10.40-12.40am FILM **Bully. Coward. Victim. The Story of Roy Cohn (PG, 2019)** Documentary investigating the controversial yet fascinating life of New York broker Roy Cohn

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore Glenn suspects Mateo is guilty of fraud
7.30 Superstore
8.00 Bob's Burgers
8.30 Bob's Burgers
9.00 Hell's Kitchen The remaining chefs prepare a seafood dish to be featured in Entertainment Weekly magazine
10.00 Shopping with Keith Lemon
10.30 Family Guy
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 American Dad!
12.00-12.30am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

7.00pm Heartbeat Blaketon finds himself party to Craddock's surprising secret, while David befriends a girl struggling to cope with her parents' divorce. Guest starring Charlotte Church
8.00 Lewis The detective comes out of retirement to help the now Inspector Hathaway and new partner DS Maddox look into a neurosurgeon's murder
10.00-12.05am Wire in the Blood Tony investigates two copycat killings. With Robson Green (3/5)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

6.45pm BattleBots *BattleBots* royalty Bronco and Lock-Jaw fight to the death as the competition for *BattleBots* World Champion gets fierce
7.45 FILM **The Living Daylights (PG, 1987)** James Bond adventure starring Timothy Dalton
10.30 English Football League Highlights All of the action from the play-off matches
11.30 Made in Britain
12.00-1.00am Bear & Jonny Wilkinson's Wild Adventure (1/2)

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks James and Ste's stag do celebrations get underway
7.30 The Big Bang Theory
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht Jenna deals with the repercussions of a wild night out
9.00 The Big Celebrity Detox An intense treatment has a profound effect on some of the group (3/8)
10.00 Emergency on Sunny Beach The Sunny Beach summer season draws to a close. Last in the series (6/6)
11.05-12.10am Gogglebox

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games With Lolly Adefope, Dan Walker and Sarah Greene
7.40 Richard Osman's House of Games With Rick Edwards, Scarlett Moffatt and Naga Munchetty.
8.20 Room 101 With Ross Noble, Jamelia and Germaine Greer
9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Victoria Coren Mitchell is guest host of this episode
10.00 QI XL With Sara Pascoe
11.00 QI XL With Cally Beaton
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Compo's funeral day dawns
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine
8.00 Kingdom The first-ever episode of the drama starring Stephen Fry and Celia Imrie
9.00 The Coroner A member of a small group of treasure hunters dies shortly after finding some gold coins with his metal detector
10.00 New Tricks The team investigates a 1982 murder
11.20-1.25am Silent Witness Sam's professional skills are tested

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain Castles of north Wales (2/6)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain Looking at structures from the Middle Ages (3/6)
8.00 Bangers and Cash Paul is picking up a stunning 1961 Vauxhall Cresta (9/15)
9.00 Inside the Factory (7/10)
10.00 Bangers and Cash (6/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland Navan to Mullingar (13/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.20pm Children of the Sun The story of the Maya civilisation (3/3)
7.30 Who Was the Real Neanderthal? New archeological discoveries offering incredible insights into who the Neanderthals were and how they lived
8.35 Shanghai 1937: Where World War II Began Documentary
9.50 In Search of Monsters
10.55 Who Was the Real Neanderthal? Documentary
12.00-1.15am Shanghai 1937: Where World War II Began

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Discovering: Frances McDormand The life of the Academy Award-winning actress
8.00 Portrait Artist of the Year 2018 Talent search (1/11)
9.00 Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir (5/6)
10.00 FILM **Steve McQueen: The Lost Movie (12, 2021)** Exploring an unfinished movie starring Steve McQueen
11.50-1.45am FILM **I Am Bruce Lee (15, 2011)** The life and career of the actor and martial artist

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire Recreating one of the world's sharpest blades
8.00 Swamp People: Serpent Invasion Troy and Pickle receive a tip about a snake pit
9.00 The Curse of Oak Island
10.00 Deadman's Curse An indigenous woman's testimony claims to know where Slumach found his gold (2/8)
11.00 Digging Up Britain's Past Searching for the remains of a First World War stables (5/6)
12.00-1.00am A Cut Above

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate SG-1 (2/2) The Jaffa Resistance puts together an army to reclaim a holy city
8.00 S.W.A.T The unit teams up with the FBI to hunt for a fugitive
9.00 FILM **The Last Witch Hunter (12, 2015)** Fantasy adventure with Vin Diesel and Elijah Wood
11.00 Strike Back: Shadow Warfare Stonebridge and Scott try to find Kamali's daughter before Al-Zuhari and his men (9/10)
12.00-1.00am Fast & Furious: Greatest Moments Refuelled

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Mayday A Boeing 737 that disintegrated in mid-air (4/10)
8.00 Alaska: The Next Generation A dark winter lies ahead
9.00 America's Hardest Prisons Featuring a violent gang member serving time with her aunt
10.00 Australia's Hardest Prison Inside Casuarina maximum security institution
11.00 Hitler Youth The expansion of the organisation (2/2)
12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Kindig Customs A 1971 Chevy Nova with tremendous pedigree arrives at the shop to get classic styling cues
8.00 Gold Divers
9.00 Deadliest Catch
10.00 Arctic Ice Railroad
11.00 Naked and Afraid XL
12.00-1.00am The Alaska Triangle

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Breeders (6/10)
7.30 Young Rock (4/13)
8.00 The Office (US) Double bill
9.00 And Just Like That. (5/10)
9.45 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon American chat show
10.45 The Reluctant Landlord
11.15 The Reluctant Landlord
11.45-12.15am In the Long Run (3/6)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends
7.30 Friends
8.00 Friends
8.30 Friends
9.00 Michael McIntyre's Big Show
10.00 Lee Evans: XL Tour
11.00 Reno 911!
11.30 Reno 911!
12.00-12.30am Digman!

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Hi-de-Hi!
7.40 Dad's Army
8.20 Dad's Army
9.00 dinnerladies Jean gets angry with the customers
9.40 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
10.25 Mrs Brown's Boys
11.00 Live at the Apollo
12.00-12.35am Mrs Brown's Boys

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.20pm Nigella: At My Table
8.00 DIY SOS: Million Pound Build for Children in Need
9.00 Wedding Valley
10.00 The Undateables
11.00 Louis Theroux: Under the Knife Documentary
12.00-1.00am Inside the Ambulance Emergency calls

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

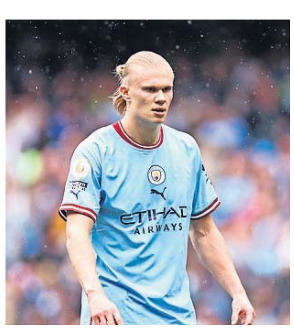
7.00pm Person of Interest (4/13)
8.00 Father Brown (10/15)
9.00 CSI: Vegas (3/10)
10.00 Evil Bishop Marx sends Kristen, David and Ben to Cornell University (8/13)
11.00 Without a Trace A stuntman vanishes from a film set
12.00-1.00am The Coroner (10/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

3.00pm Live Indian Premier League: Punjab Kings v Delhi Capitals Coverage of the T20
7.00 Sky Sports News
7.30 Live EFL Live coverage of a Championship semi-final second-leg match (Kick-off **8.00**)
10.30 Back Pages Tonight A look at the sports headlines in tomorrow's newspapers
11.00pm-12.00m't Sky Sports News Round-up of the sports news
1.30-4.00am Live NBA Basketball Live coverage of a play-off match

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

5.30pm Live WSL: Everton v Arsenal (Kick-off **6.15**) Coverage of the women's top-flight match held at Walton Hall Park
8.00 Live WSL: West Ham United v Chelsea (Kick-off **8.15**) Coverage of the women's top-flight encounter at Chigwell Construction Stadium
11.00 Premier League Stories Behind the scenes of the top flight
11.30-12.00m't Behind the Game The latest episode of *Behind the Game* featuring Aaron Ramsdale



Erling Haaland looks for more goals as Manchester City face Real Madrid (BT Sport 1, 7pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

2.50pm Live Indian Premier League: Punjab Kings v Delhi Capitals Coverage of the T20 match from Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamsala
7.00 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket
8.35 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket
9.00 IPL Action from Punjab Kings v Delhi Capitals
10.00 IPL Action from Lucknow Super Giants v Mumbai Indians
11.00-12.00m't IPL Action from Punjab Kings v Delhi Capitals

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

7.00pm Live Uefa Champions League: Manchester City v Real Madrid (Kick-off **8.00**) Coverage of the semi-final second-leg match from Etihad Stadium
10.45 The Football's On
11.45pm-12.00m't Premier League Reload A whirlwind catch-up from the weekend's top-flight matches
12.30-4.00am Live MLB: St Louis Cardinals v Milwaukee Brewers (Start-time **12.45**) Coverage of the National League match from Busch Stadium

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

6.30pm MotoGP Highlights
7.30 MLB Plays of the Week
8.00 Live MLB: Los Angeles Dodgers v Minnesota Twins (Start-time **8.10**) Coverage of the inter-league match from Dodger Stadium
11.30-12.30am World Poker Tour Series Action from the Gardens Poker Championship
3.00-8.30am Live Badminton Coverage of day five of the TotalEnergies BWF Sudirman Cup Finals from Suzhou, China

Wednesday 17

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am The Yellow Balloon (PG, 1953) Crime drama starring Kathleen Ryan **12.40pm Footsteps in the Fog (PG, 1955)** Period thriller starring Stewart Granger **2.30 The Long Arm (U, 1956)** Crime thriller starring Jack Hawkins and Dorothy Alison **4.30 First Men in the Moon (U, 1964)** Sci-fi adventure starring Lionel Jeffries, Edward Judd, Martha Hyer **6.35 Star Trek (12, 2009)** Sci-fi adventure starring Chris Pine and Zachary Quinto **9.00 Flight (15, 2012)** Drama with Denzel Washington and Don Cheadle. **See Film Choice** **11.45 Hell or High Water (15, 2016)** Drama with Chris Pine **1.50-4.00am The Escapist (15, 2008)** Thriller starring Brian Cox. **See Film Choice**

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am The Detectives **7.00 Strictly for the Birds (PG, 1964)** Comedy starring Tony Tanner and Joan Sims **8.15 Clash by Night (PG, 1963)** Drama starring Peter Sallis and Terence Longdon **9.45 Look at Life** **10.00 The Onedin Line** **11.00 Nurse on Wheels (U, 1963)** Comedy starring Juliet Mills and Ronald Lewis **12.45pm Night Was Our Friend (PG, 1951)** Drama starring Michael Gough **2.00 Upstairs, Downstairs** **3.00 A Night in Casablanca (U, 1946)** Slapstick comedy starring the Marx Brothers **4.45 Operation Diplomat (U, 1953)** Crime drama with Guy Rolfe and Ballard Berkeley **6.10 Guadalcanal Diary (PG, 1943)** Second World War drama starring Preston Foster **8.00 Gideon's Way** **9.00 Pendulum (12, 1969)** Crime drama starring George Peppard and Jean Seberg **11.05-12.55am Heavenly Pursuits (15, 1986)** Comedy drama starring Tom Conti

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Family Reunited **10.50 GREAT! Movie News** **11.00 A Game of Cat and Mouse: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2019)** Whodunit with Candace Cameron Bure **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News** **1.00 Murder by Text: Garage Sale Mystery (PG, 2017)** Mystery starring Lori Loughlin **2.50 GREAT! Movie News** **3.00 Fixer Upper Mysteries: Deadly Deed (PG, 2018)** Drama starring Jewel Kilcher **4.50 GREAT! Movie News** **5.00 Twisted Tenant (PG, 2018)** Thriller starring James Maslow and Lorynn York



Ryan Gosling in Only God Forgives (GREAT!, 10.50pm)

6.50 My Girl (PG, 1991) Drama starring Anna Chlumsky **9.00 13 (15, 2010)** Thriller remake starring Sam Riley **10.50-12.40am Only God Forgives (18, 2013)** Crime thriller starring Ryan Gosling and Kristin Scott Thomas

TCM Movies
SKY 315

6.00am Hollywood's Best Film Directors **6.30 Sierra Passage (PG, 1950)** Western starring Wayne Morris and Lola Albright **8.15 Knights of the Round Table (PG, 1953)** Medieval adventure starring Robert Taylor and Ava Gardner **10.40 Rio Bravo (PG, 1959)** Western with John Wayne and Dean Martin and Ricky Nelson **1.30pm Rocky Mountain (U, 1950)** Western starring Errol Flynn and Patrice Wymore **3.15 Canyon Raiders (PG, 1951)** Western starring Whip Wilson and Fuzzy Knight **4.25 The Cowboys (PG, 1972)** Western starring John Wayne and Roscoe Lee Browne **7.05 The Naked Spur (PG, 1953)** Western starring James Stewart and Ralph Meeker **9.00 Righteous Kill (15, 2008)** Crime thriller starring Robert De Niro and Al Pacino **11.10-1.20am War (18, 2007)** Martial arts thriller starring Jet Li and Jason Statham

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.20pm Mia And Me: The Hero Of Centopia (U, 2022) Adventure starring Margot Nuccetelli and the voice of Gedeon Burkhard **2.00 Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Colin Morgan **4.00 Vengeance (15, 2022)** Mystery drama starring BJ Novak and Boyd Holbrook **6.00 Ticket to Paradise (12, 2022)** Comedy romance starring George Clooney **8.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville and Isabelle Huppert **10.10-12.00am The Old Way (15, 2023)** Western starring Nicolas Cage, Ryan Kiera Armstrong, and Noah Le Gros

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover. With TV personality Kate Ferdinand **5.00** John Pienaar with Times Radio Drive **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Carole Walker **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Folk Show with Mark Radcliffe **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Alternative Sounds of the 90s **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.00 Essential Classics** **12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky** Donald Macleod explores *The Sleeping Beauty* **1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Hannah French presents Ruby Hughes and Sergio Bucheli in a Latino songbook. Angel Villoldo (*Cantar Eterno*); Francesco Corbetta (*Chaconne*); Antoine Boesset (*L'auzel*) and Didier Le Blanc (*Le marinier*) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** The Ulster Orchestra perform at the Ulster Hall. Stravinsky (Violin Concerto in D major); Chopin (Scherzo No. 2 in B flat minor); Sibelius (Symphony no.5 in E flat major, Op.82); Strozzi (*Godere in gioventù*, Op.1'12) and Wagner (*Overture to The Flying Dutchman*) **4.00 Live Choral Evensong** From St Martin-in-the-Fields **5.00 In Tune** Music news. **7.00 Classical Mixtape** Georgia Mann presents **7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** James Feddeck conducts the BBC National Orchestra of Wales. Anna Clyne (*Masquerade*); Tchaikovsky (Piano Concerto No 1 in B flat minor, Op 23, TH 55) and Rachmaninov (Symphonic Dances, Op 45) **10.00 Free Thinking** Shahidha Bari on camp sensibilities and links to the Gothic **10.45 The Essay: De Waal's Itinerant Pots** The Schindler House in California (r) **11.00 Night Tracks** **12.30am Through the Night**

Today's pick

The Documentary: Global Dancefloor
World Service, 11.30am
This new two-part series from the presenter and DJ Frank McWeeny, *right*, profiling the world's most cutting-edge underground nightlife scenes begins in Beirut. Lebanon is going through the worst economic and political crisis in its history, with the value of its currency plummeting, large swathes of the population living below the poverty line and the capital still reeling from the explosions in its port area in 2020. Still, in the city's Grand Factory club, underground culture is thriving despite the chronic lack of opportunity.
Ben Dowell



Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing **5.43 Prayer for the Day** **5.45 Farming Today** **5.58 Tweet of the Day** (r) **6.00 Today** **8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament** Political news **9.00 Life Changing** (7/7) **9.30 Please Protect Abraham** An investigation is launched (r) **9.45 Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police** By Matt Lloyd-Rose. Read by Jack Parris (3/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service** **10.00 Woman's Hour** **11.00 Buying a British Dad** (r) **11.30 A Very British Cult** The loved ones of those who are in Lighthouse (7/8) **12.01pm (LW) Shipping** **12.04 You and Yours** **1.00 The World at One** **1.45 Frontlines of Journalism** **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: I Don't Believe You** By Robert Forrest (r) **3.00 Money Box Live** **3.30 All in the Mind** (r) **4.00 Thinking Allowed** **4.30 The Media Show** **5.00 PM** **5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast** **6.00 Six O'Clock News** **6.30 Lemn Sissay's Social Enterprise** (r) **7.00 The Archers** Pat tries to find the right words **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 Bringing Up Britain** (4/4) **8.45 Metamorphosis: How Insects Transformed Our World** The honeybee (r) **9.00 Costing the Earth** (r) **9.30 The Media Show** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight** **10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece** By Tom Hanks (3/10) **11.00 Jamie MacDonald: Life on the Blink** Comedy **11.15 The Skewer** New series **11.30 Today in Parliament** **12.00 News and Weather** **12.30am Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police** (3/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast** **1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Naga Munchetty **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** 5 Live Sport: Manchester City v Real Madrid (Kick-off 8.00) **10.30** Colin Murray **1.00am** Dotun Adebayo

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Laura Woods **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off: Manchester City v Real Madrid (Kick-off 8.00) **10.00** Sports Bar. Reaction **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** Julia Hartley-Brewer **10.00** Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle. Debate **8.00** Piers Morgan Uncensored **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Petrie Hosken **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am Hancock's Half Hour **8.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **9.00** Nature Table **9.30** Hobby Bobbies **10.00** Parson Harding's Daughter **11.00** Shadows in Bronze **11.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **12.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **12.15pm** Young Victoria **12.30** Women Talking About Cars **1.00** Hancock's Half Hour **1.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **2.00** Nature Table **2.30** Hobby Bobbies. By Dave Lamb **3.00** Parson Harding's Daughter **4.00** Shadows in Bronze **4.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **5.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **5.15** Young Victoria **5.30** Women Talking About Cars **6.00** Hancock's Half Hour **6.30** Life, Death and Sex with Mike and Sue **7.00** Nature Table **7.30** Hobby Bobbies **8.00**: From Soup to Nuts **8.30** Ways of Thinking **9.00** Short Cuts **9.30** A Gathering Light **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth **10.00** Lemn Sissay's Social Enterprise **10.30** Pick-Ups **11.00** The Sofa of Time **11.30** The Mel and Sue Thing

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** The Climate Question **10.00** News **10.06** World Questions **11.00** Newsroom **11.30** The Documentary: Global Dancefloor. A visit to Grand Factory Club in Beirut, Lebanon. **See Choice** **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** Newsroom **1.30** Tech Tent **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** The Climate Question **8.30** Healthcheck **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** Documentary **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** World Questions **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Assignment **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** Food Chain

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Lauren Laverne **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** Tom Robinson **9.00** Deb Grant **12.00** Freak Zone **1.00am** Dream Pop Playlist

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am Chris Evans **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Sam Pittis **4.00** Early Breakfast

Thursday 18 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice
Amol Rajan Interviews
BBC2, 7pm

Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, *right*, are the investigative journalists who broke the story of the Watergate case against Richard Nixon in The Washington Post in 1972. In this "wide-ranging and in-depth interview", Amol Rajan questions the pair (who were portrayed by Robert Redford and Dustin Hoffman in the 1976 movie *All the President's Men*) on the scandal that led to the resignation of the 37th US president, as well as on the presidency of Donald Trump and the state of America and the world today. Woodward and Bernstein are still two of the biggest names in US news journalism. In an article for the *Post* last year they accused Trump of going further than Nixon in trying to retain power by any means possible. They called Trump America's first "seditious" president because of his encouragement of actions on January 6, 2021, to try to overturn the election result. They also discuss their humble beginnings knocking on doors after the Watergate burglary, and what it is like to be "journalistically mythologised" on the big screen. In the decades since Watergate Woodward has written books about political heavyweights from Barack Obama to Trump, and he shares his insights on them and others, while Bernstein, who is a regular on US news programmes, shares views on the media. The interview was conducted shortly after Biden declared he is running again — the oldest candidate yet to do so, and a contemporary of Woodward and Bernstein — and they discuss his presidency and "the forces tearing western democracies apart". Joe Clay



No Escape
Paramount+

It's an intriguing start to a drama — a boat adrift on the ocean is boarded by a rescue team. The boat is deserted, and it looks as though whoever was there either left in a hurry or has vanished. There is uneaten food and plates on the table, while in the bedroom a door swings open with the words "I confess" daubed on it in blood. The action shifts to Townsville, Australia, where the English waitress Emma (*Tin Star*'s Abigail Lawrie) is brought in for questioning by police who think that she may know something about events on board the Blue. A twisty four-part thriller ensues. **JC**

Rolf Harris: Hiding in Plain Sight
ITVX

Knowing what we do now, the opening scene of this two-part documentary is sickening. On *Jim'll Fix It* a girl has asked to watch Rolf Harris do one of his paintings. "Do you think I may leave her in your charge?" Jimmy Savile asks. "Safely leave her in my capable hands," replies Harris, who was in prison from 2014-17 for indecent assaults on women and girls between 1968 and 1986. This series tells the truth behind the rise and fall of a former national treasure, using rare archive footage and exclusive testimony from those closest to the trial. **JC**

Alexander Armstrong in Sri Lanka
Channel 5, 9pm

Over the next three weeks Alexander Armstrong is your guide for a journey around "the most beautiful and inspiring island you can imagine". He starts in Galle, on the southwest coast, and upbeat segments (yoga with a guru, making paper out of elephant poo, delivering bread as a choon paan man) are juxtaposed with the plight of captive elephants and three million stray dogs. He even finds time for an exorcism that turns into a spectacular (and dangerous) ritual. **JC**

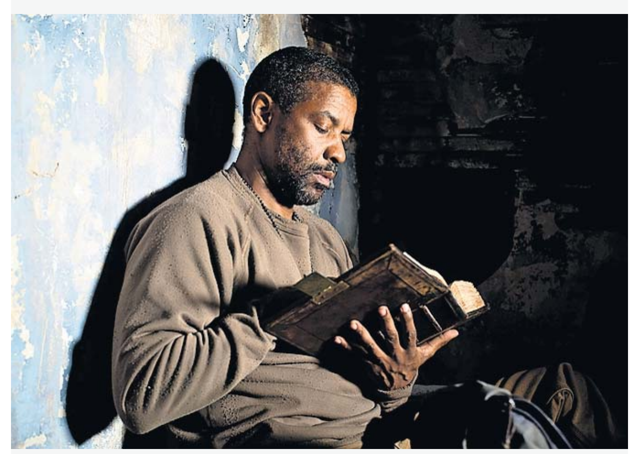
Last King of the Cross
Sky Max/Now, 9pm

John Ibrahim is the son of Lebanese immigrants who rose from being a teenage bouncer to a nightclub baron. Sydney's "playboy prince of darkness" was a target for rival gangs and police investigations, accused of being the "lifeblood of the drugs industry of King's Cross". His memoir has been adapted for this drama that recreates the seedy King's Cross strip — "the only game in town if you want a naughty night out" — of the late 1980s and 1990s. Lincoln Younes stars, with Claude Jabbour as older brother Sam and Tim Roth as crime boss Ezra Shipman. **JC**

Films of the day

Tea with Mussolini (PG, 1999)
BBC4, 9pm

The director Franco Zeffirelli drew on his early life for this evocative portrait of an expat community in Italy before the Second World War. The illegitimate son of a businessman is raised by the English woman Mary Wallace (Joan Plowright). Her friends include Lady Hester (Maggie Smith), Arabella (Judi Dench) and a wealthy American art (and husband) collector played by Cher. The rise of fascism gives little concern to the women, who invite Mussolini (Claudio Spadaro) for a chat over tea to ascertain his intentions. This was the first time that Cher sang in a film in which she starred; she took the part because Zeffirelli said that he could see only her in it. (117min) **Wendy Ide**



The Book of Eli (15, 2010)
Film4, 9pm

In a blighted post-apocalyptic world, one man travels by foot to the west across North America. He is Eli (Denzel Washington, *above*) and he is the custodian of a unique book that may hold the key to mankind's salvation. He survives on his wits and his ability to trap and kill small animals, but his fighting skills attract the attention of Carnegie (Gary Oldman), a powerful warlord who desires Eli's treasured book. Mila Kunis is Solara, Carnegie's daughter and most powerful bargaining chip. It has more in common with the high-octane violent rampage of *Mad Max* than with the morose survival against the odds of *The Road*. The religious subtext is far from subtle: Eli quotes from the Book of Genesis and there is a reference to Revelations hidden in there as well. (118min) **WI**

Catch up



30 Rock
ITVX

All seven seasons of the award-winning satirical sitcom *30 Rock* (16 Emmys and six Golden Globes) are on ITVX. Set in a TV studio, it revolves around the fraught relationships between Liz Lemon (Tina Fey, *right*), the head writer of a fictional NBC sketch comedy series, the station's vice-president Jack Donaghy (Alec Baldwin) and the show's anarchic star Tracy Morgan. The show is frequently stolen by Jane Krakowski's vain actress Jenna Maroney and the studio's goofy "page" and tour guide Kenneth (Jack McBrayer). Despite the first season airing in 2006 it feels fresh, sharp and wonderfully unpredictable, with the pacing and madcap antics of a *Looney Tunes* cartoon. **Joe Clay**

Regional programmes

- **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 10.40pm** The View **11.20** Question Time **12.20am** Newscast **12.50-6.00am** News
- **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 11.15am** Bargain Hunt **Midday-1.00pm** Scottish First Minister's Questions **7.00-7.30pm** River City (r)
- **Channel As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.10pm** The Last Word
- **ITV1 Anglia As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.10pm** Anglia Late Edition
- **ITV1 Border As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.10pm** Around the House
- **ITV1 Central As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.10pm** Central Lobby
- **ITV1 Granada As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.10pm** The Granada Debate
- **ITV1 London As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.10pm** Regional Programme
- **ITV1 Meridian As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.10pm** The Last Word
- **ITV1 Tyne Tees As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.10pm** Around the House
- **ITV1 Wales As ITV1 except: 10.45pm** Love Your Garden (r) **11.40** Fishlock's Choice. Trevor visits an air museum (r) **12.05-12.15am** The Best of the 80s (r)
- **ITV1 West Country As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.10pm** The Westcountry Debate
- **ITV1 Yorkshire As ITV1 except: 10.45-11.10pm** Last Orders
- **STV As ITV1 except: 8.30-9.00pm** Scotland Tonight **10.45** All-Inclusive Holidays: Unpacked: Tonight **11.10** Robson and Jim's Fly-Fishing Adventure (r) **12.05-3.00am** Teleshopping **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision. News, sport and weather
- **UTV As ITV1 except: 10.45pm** Love Your Garden **11.40** Rare Breed: A Farming Year (r) **12.05-12.15am** The Best of the 80s (r)
- **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** The Great Food Guys (r) **7.30** Scotland's Home of the Year (r) **8.00** Beechgrove Garden **8.30** Landward. Dougie visits six siblings working together to futureproof their family farm **9.00** The Nine **10.00** Scot Squad (r) **10.30** Anton Danyluk on Body Shame **11.00pm-Midnight** Trawlermen: Hunting the Catch (r)
- **S4C 6.00am** Cyw **12.00** News **12.05pm** Natur a Ni (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Live Ralïo+. The final leg of the Rally de Portugal (r) **1.30** Gareth! (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Ty am Ddim (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr (r) **5.00** Stwnsh (r) **6.00** Cymry ar Gynfas (r) **6.30** Ein Llwybrau Celtaidd (r) **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Pobol y Cwm **8.25** Rownd a Rownd **8.55** News **9.00** Y Byd yn ei Le **9.45** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia **10.30** Iaith ar Daith (r) **11.30-12.05** Ffilmiau Ddoe (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

Also available online and on tablet
Digital subscribers can now use our interactive seven-day guide with comprehensive listings of all TV channels
thetimes.co.uk/tvplanner

Thursday 18

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain **10.00** Frontline Fightback **10.45** Defenders UK (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt (r) **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Doctors. Rob cooks up a storm **2.15** Money for Nothing. Sarah Moore gets crafty with a collection of knitted blankets and patches **3.00** Escape to the Country. Nicki Chapman helps a young family find a new home (r) **3.45** The Bidding Room. Featuring a toy cafeteria truck, a surprising key, and Victorian Children's clogs (r) **4.30** The Repair Shop. A painting of a Lebanese landscape is restored (r) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong, with Sally Lindsay (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather


Semi-final with Gordon Ramsay (9pm)

7.00 The One Show Live chat and topical reports, presented by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 EastEnders Jay breaks Lola out of hospital for a fun-filled day at the seaside but it quickly goes south as the pair get in trouble

8.00 MasterChef The second group of seven hopefuls compete for the chance to work in a professional kitchen for the first time. They must cook a dish they would have on the menu of their own restaurant, pop-up or feature in their cookbook

9.00 Gordon Ramsay's Future Food Stars The semi-finalists have their media skills tested as they are challenged to sell a local street food brand online, under the watchful eye of TIkTok sensation Uncle Roger (7/8)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 Question Time Fiona Bruce chairs the topical debate, inviting a panel of politicians and other guests in Fort William to answer questions from an invited audience

11.40 Newscast BBC journalists including Adam Fleming and Chris Mason host a weekly round-up from Westminster, delivering the usual mix of serious analysis and light-hearted gossip about the biggest stories in politics

12.10am Weather for the Week Ahead **12.15** BBC News. The day's headlines

BBC2

6.30am Money for Nothing (r) **7.15** Escape to the Country (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Between the Covers (r) (SL) **8.30** Caught Red Handed (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics Live **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** Eat Well for Less? Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin help a family in Nottinghamshire (r) **3.15** Secret Britain. The presenters explore Devon (r) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The designers transform bridal, homeware and lingerie shops in Salisbury (r) **5.15** Flog It!. A compilation edition (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Nabil Abdulrashid, Luke Kempner, Sarah Millican and Philippa Perry take part (r) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip. Clive finds out if he could make it as a gondolier in Venice


The final episode of Guilt (9pm)

7.00 Watergate to Trump: Amol Rajan Interviews journalists Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein. **See Viewing Guide**

7.45 Grand Tours of Scotland's Lochs Paul finds out about the woods of Loch Sunart (3/6) (r)

8.00 DNA Family Secrets A 79-year-old woman who grew up in a Nazi concentration camp as a Jewish orphan longs to know more about her family, and whether any of her relatives escaped the Holocaust (2/6) (r)

9.00 Guilt Max has a plan to seize Sir Jim Sturrock's money from Maggie Lynch, but he won't tell Jake what it is, leaving his brother close to entering a secret alliance with Sheila. Maggie meets with her estranged daughter Erin (4/4)

10.00 Inside No 9 Wolfie and Clarke love their bus — but not as much as Mr Cole (5/6)

10.30 Newsnight Analysis of the day's events with Victoria Derbyshire

11.15 The Stones and Brian Jones Nick Broomfield examines the life and legacy of the founder member of the Rolling Stones, looking at the relationships and rivalries within the band in their formative years

12.50am Sign Zone: Inside the Factory. Gregg Wallace visits the Vale of Mowbray pork pie factory (r) (SL) **1.50** Dr Xand's Con or Cure. Health consumer show (r) (SL) **2.35** Iolo's Borderlands (r) (SL) **3.05-3.35** MasterChef. Cooking series (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Men **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. David Dickinson and the dealers are in Newport, where items include a pair of Arts and Crafts candlesticks and a gold watch (r) **3.00** Tenable. Sally Lindsay hosts as five family and friends from Cheshire attempt to answer questions about top 10 lists, before trying to score a perfect 10 in the final round (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz in which contestants drop tokens down a choice of four chutes in the hope of winning a £10,000 jackpot **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather


A visit to Emmerdale (7.30pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Moira swallows her pride and tells Kim to make an offer for her land. Caleb feels the pressure mounting. Wendy and Liam bond after she discovers a secret about him

8.30 All-Inclusive Holidays: Unpacked: Tonight Ginny Buckley reports on the value of all-inclusive holidays

9.00 Without Sin Stella finally learns the devastating truth about what happened to her daughter — and it will change both her and Charles' worlds forever. Meanwhile, Charles finds himself fighting for his life in hospital after a stabbing (4/4)

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 Regional Programme

11.10 DNA Journey Amanda Holden and Alan Carr embark on journeys across the country as they delve into their family histories, unlocking the past and meeting family they never knew existed (2/3) (r)

12.15am All Elite Wrestling: Rampage. Hard-hitting, high-flying wrestling action with many of AEW's biggest stars **1.10** Teleshopping **3.00** Love Your Garden (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Family Fortunes. Game show, hosted by Gino D'Acampo (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown. **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. A couple want to swap wet winters in Wales for a holiday haven in the sun (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. Hunting for a holiday home in Costa Da Caparica, Portugal **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. The owners of a village in France officially open after two years of renovations (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Homer becomes an ice-cream man (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. James and Ste's stag do celebrations get underway (r)


The Great Sex Experiment (10pm)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

8.00 24 Hours in A&E A look back at some of the most memorable staff and patient stories filmed since 2011 at King's College Hospital and St George's in London — places where life, love and loss unfold every day

9.00 Taskmaster Contenders Frankie Boyle, Ivo Graham, Jenny Eclair, Kiell Smith-Bynoe and Mae Martin continue the challenges set for them by Greg Davies. At this stage of the competition, it's no surprise that people find pineapples stressful (8/10)

10.00 Open House: The Great Sex Experiment New series. Builder Connor and full-time mother Kirstie are interested in bringing another man into their relationship and want to start the process by having a threesome (1/8)

11.10 Naked Attraction Anna Richardson meets a 31-year-old, from Melton Mowbray who is seeking her own superhero, and a 34 year-old from Plymouth is looking for a lady to complete "Team Tony" (r)

12.10am Kitchen Nightmares USA (r) (SL) **1.00** The Simpsons (r) **1.25** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **2.15** FILM **Roman J Israel, Esq (12, 2018)** (SL) **4.15** The Great British Dig: History in Your Back Garden (r) **5.05** Kirstie's House of Craft (r) **5.15** Moneybags (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. Important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Remi digests the news that Bree is pregnant (r) **2.15** FILM **Ruby Herring Mysteries: Her Last Breath (PG, TVM, 2019)** Ruby and Killian look into a suspicious road accident, but just when they think they have the case wrapped up, Ruby uncovers new evidence. With Taylor Cole **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. A mini-break near Marbella (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. Entertainers take on the quiz experts (r) **6.30** Eggheads. Hoping to topple the quizzing giants are the Tyrell Corporation (r) **6.55** 5 News Update


Alexander Armstrong (9pm)

7.00 Michael Portillo's Pyrenees Adventure Michael visits a young couple from Luxembourg who left city life behind to become pig farmers, lends a hand feeding the pigs and samples some of the farm's delicacies (3/4) (r)

8.00 Jane McDonald's Magical Morocco The singer discovers the continent of Africa, unearths the secrets hidden in the markets of Marrakech, and while shopping, she learns the art of haggling; followed by 5 News Update

9.00 Alexander Armstrong in Sri Lanka New series. The presenter heads for the paradise isle of the Indian Ocean, Sri Lanka, discovering its historic culture, beginning in the fortress town of Galle. **See Viewing Guide** (1/3)

10.00 Killer at the Crime Scene A landlord discovers a foot poking out of his wheelie bin, outside a property that has just received an end-of-tenancy deep-clean that may have destroyed any evidence (10/12)

11.05 Cause of Death Documentary following the work of coroners investigate the death of a man who had bought medicine online to protect himself from Covid-19 and try to determine if this contributed to his untimely death (3/4) (r)

12.05am Police Interceptors (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** Good Girls' Guide to Kinky Sex (r) **3.50** GPs: Behind Closed Doors (r) **4.35** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **4.55** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.20** Milkshake! (r) (SL) **5.30** Pip and Posy (r) (SL) **5.35** Paw Patrol (r)

Thursday 18 | Primetime digital guide



Summer Holiday

Cliff Richard and friends drive across Europe in a bus in the 1963 musical comedy
BBC4, 10.50pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max An insight into the day's top stories
6.30 The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham The host takes a look through the morning newspapers
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The host guides you through the big stories of the day from the world of politics, current affairs and showbiz
7.00 Jeremy Kyle Live
8.00 Piers Morgan Uncensored The host presents his verdict on the day's global events with an hour of debate and interviews
9.00 The Talk A panel of famous faces debate the hot topics everybody's talking about
10.00 First Edition
11.00-12.00m't Piers Morgan Uncensored

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear (2/7)
8.00 MOTDx Discussion
8.30 MOTD Top 10: Penalty Takers A count down of the best penalty takers in Premier League history
9.00 Joey Essex: Grief and Me The star opens up about the death of his mother, who took her own life when he was 10 years old
10.00 Black Ops Undercover police officers Dom and Kay have a body to bury (2/6)
10.30 Man Like Mobeen After the attack on his best friends, Mobeen is armed and set for revenge (1/5)
10.55 Man Like Mobeen Uncle Khan orders Mobeen to launder money (2/5)
11.20 Squad Goals: Britain's Youngest Football Boss Martha Thomas seeks some emotional support (3/6)
11.50-12.20am Britain's Youngest Football Boss (4/6)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm The Sky at Night The team explores the threat of an asteroid impact on Earth
7.30 Railways: The Making of a Nation Documentary examining how the railways changed the nation's economy (2/6)
8.00 A House Through Time David Olusoga traces the history of an 18th-century sea captain's house near Bristol's docks, which was originally built and lived in by prolific slave traders (1/4)
9.00 FILM Tea with Mussolini (PG, 1999) Eccentric English and American women adopt a boy disowned by his father. Period comedy drama starring Maggie Smith and Judi Dench. **See Film Choice**
10.50-12.35am FILM Summer Holiday (U, 1963) Musical comedy starring Cliff Richard and Lauri Peters

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Escape to the Château: DIY A recent storm leaves Lee and Belinda's castle keep in need of urgent repairs (7/15)
7.55 Grand Designs Kevin McCloud follows the progress of a teacher and architect, who want to restore and transform a 100-year-old blacksmiths in Co Antrim
9.00 George Clarke's Remarkable Renovations The architect follows people as they transform former commercial properties (1/6)
10.00 999: What's Your Emergency? The impact on the emergency services of the rising number of homeless people (3/7)
11.05-12.05am 24 Hours in A&E A 24-year-old moped delivery man is rushed to A&E after an accident involving a police car

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood Alcide helps Sookie to search for Eric. Meanwhile, Bill discovers that he has an unexpected connection to the Bellefleur family, and Jason spots a chance to escape (4/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones The Hound is judged by the gods, while Jaime receives a different form of justice, Robb is betrayed, and Jon proves himself (5/10) (R)
9.00 Billions Axe negotiates with a reluctant seller and Wendy makes a professional decision that adds further conflict to her relationship with Chuck (6/12) (R)
10.10 Billions Axe assembles a war room in the Hamptons following a disastrous setback (7/12) (R)
11.20-12.25am Gangs of London Luan is forced to confront the deadly consequences of his actions (7/9) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

6.50pm Hillary After two terms as first lady, Hillary stands for public office (4/4) (R)
8.00 Escobar by Escobar The story behind the cursed Escobar empire, following the fortunes of Juan Pablo, who was the sole heir to the biggest drug dealer in history (3/4) (R)
9.00 Natalie Wood: What Remains Behind Natasha Gregson Wagner presents a unique insight into her mother's life and movie career. Featuring interviews with friends and colleagues and previously unseen archive materials (R)
11.00-1.00am Wework: How to Lose $30b in Two Weeks The rise and fall of one of the biggest corporate flameouts and venture capitalist bubbles in recent years, and the company culture that contributed (R)

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore
7.30 Superstore
8.00 Bob's Burgers
8.30 Bob's Burgers
9.00 Gordon, Gino and Fred: European Road Trip Culinary adventure beginning with a vow renewal ceremony in Gino's homeland of Italy (1/3)
10.00 Family Guy
10.30 Family Guy
11.00 Family Guy
11.30 American Dad!
12.00-12.30am American Dad!

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

7.00pm Heartbeat An ex-convict Blaketon helped put behind bars arrives at the pub, and Greengrass acts as pawnbroker to a pampered youth, only to land in trouble with the law for his pains
8.00 Vera The detective investigates the death of a school teacher, and it quickly becomes a murder case when she discovers evidence the body has been tampered with
10.00-12.05am Wire in the Blood An old woman is suffocated (4/5)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

7.00pm BattleBots Icewave and Skorpios fight it out
8.00 The Great British Treasure Hunt Henry Cole takes five teams of intrepid metal detectorists to Somerleyton in Suffolk (3/5)
9.00 FILM Licence to Kill (15, 1989) James Bond spy thriller starring Timothy Dalton, Robert Davi, Carey Lowell and Benicio Del Toro
11.45-12.45am FILM Maximum Conviction (15, 2012) Action adventure with Steven Seagal, Steve Austin and Michael Pare

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks Ste and James come up with a plan to prove their love for each other
7.30 The Big Bang Theory The arrival of Sheldon's twin sister causes a stir
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht The deck team get into choppy waters during a rough docking
9.00 The Big Celebrity Detox The celebs are nearly halfway through their journey (4/8)
10.00 Gogglebox
11.05-12.10am First Dates

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games Double bill of the quiz
8.20 Room 101 Politician John Prescott, actress Rebecca Front and comedian Micky Flanagan join to discuss their pet hates
9.00 Have I Got a Bit More News for You Comedian Jack Dee hosts
10.00 Meet the Richardsons Jon and Lucy find out what real love looks like, and Jon gets into shape for five-a-side football
10.40 Mock the Week Double bill
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Compo's son causes chaos
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine
8.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators When a role-playing battle goes wrong, Lu and Frank must catch the culprit
9.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Frank Hathaway and Luella Shakespeare investigate the disappearance of an Eastern European oligarch
10.00 New Tricks Detective drama
11.20-1.25am Silent Witness

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain Scottish baronial style (4/6)
7.30 Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain Britain's canals (5/6)
8.00 Bangers & Cash: Restoring Classics The restoration of a 1992 Vauxhall Nova Merit Plus (2/6)
9.00 Classic Car Garage An Austin Allegro's wonky suspension (5/10)
10.00 Bangers and Cash (8/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys Goes to Ireland From Wexford to Westport (15/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.10pm Ice Age Footprints The prehistoric footprints in White Sands National Park, New Mexico
7.20 Nazca Desert Mystery One of archaeology's greatest enigmas
8.30 Mussolini: The First Fascist The mechanisms of Fascist power, as Italy is led towards disaster (1/2)
9.40 Ku Klux Klan: An American Story The group's secret history, from creation to the present day
10.50 Nazca Desert Mystery
12.00-1.15am Mussolini: The First Fascist Documentary (1/2)

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Discovering: David Niven A profile of the British actor (9/14)
8.00 Painting Birds with Jim and Nancy Moir On the East Yorkshire coast to paint gannets (5/6)
9.00 The Directors The life and work of James L Brooks (9/10)
10.00 Discovering Film: Horror Special Authors and film critics come together to dissect their all-time favourite horror movies
11.30-1.50am Elvis Costello and the Imposters Live in Memphis Concert recorded in 2004

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire Two smiths go head-to-head to forge a weapon
8.00 Storage Wars Double bill
9.00 A Cut Above The carvers make fantastical carousel animals
10.00 Blown Away A bid to fashion glass into a sculpture that shows the body in movement (9/10)
10.30 Blown Away The finalists compete for the big prize (10/10)
11.00 Counting Cars An update on rock star Alice Cooper's '63 Avanti
12.00-1.00am Secret Wars Uncovered Islamic terrorism

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate SG-1 (1/2) The team travels back in time
8.00 Fast & Furious: Greatest Moments Refuelled
9.00 Last King of the Cross New series. Australian crime drama. **See Viewing Guide** (1/10)
10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks Comedy music quiz hosted by Greg Davies, with Shaun Ryder, Bez and Desiree Burch joining Noel Fielding and Daisy Cooper (7/7)
10.45 Fantasy Island (4/10)
11.45-12.40am Resident Alien

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation
8.00 Car S.O.S.: Ultimate Countdown New series. Tim and Fuzz share their favourite reveals
9.00 Limitless With Chris Hemsworth The actor attempts to live as an octogenarian (6/6)
10.00 Lawless Island Sam helps Matt to fix an old boat for his first fishing trip as captain
11.00 Hitler's American Battleground Documentary (1/2)
12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Bitchin' Rides Challenges mount on a tricky Hot Rod build
8.00 Gold Divers A rush to solid ground before the ice vanishes
9.00 Naked and Afraid In the rugged wilderness of Argentina
10.00 Naked and Afraid Across the gruelling terrain of Lapalala
12.00-1.00am The Alaska Triangle

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

6.55pm Breeders (8/10)
7.30 Young Rock (5/13)
8.00 The Office (US) Double bill
9.00 Miracle Workers: Oregon Trail (5&6/10) Two episodes
10.00 And Just Like That... (5/10)
10.50 Barry Dark comedy (7/8)
11.30-12.30am The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends Four episodes
9.00 Kevin Bridges: A Whole Different Story From his 2015 tour
10.00 Digman! Animated comedy
10.30 Mike Judge's Beavis & Butt-Head A secret admirer
11.00 Reno 911! Double bill
12.00-12.30am Most Ridiculous Teenage Kicks Online video clips

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Hi-de-Hi! Classic comedy
7.35 Dad's Army Double bill
9.00 dinnerladies Bren is excited about her forthcoming holiday
9.40 Victoria Wood as Seen on TV
10.20 Mrs Brown's Boys Agnes turns to the internet to find a date
11.00 Back to Life Dark comedy
11.35-12.10am Back to Life

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

6.00pm MasterChef Australia
7.30 Inside the Ambulance
8.00 DIY SOS: The Big Build
9.00 24 Hours in A&E A child is rushed in after being hit by a car
10.00 999 Rescue Squad A car balanced over a fast-flowing river
11.00-12.15am Louis Theroux: Extreme Love: Autism

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

7.00pm Person of Interest (5/13)
8.00 Father Brown (11/15)
9.00 Murdoch Mysteries
10.00 Miss Scarlet and the Duke Eliza is delivered a bomb (6/6)
11.00 Without a Trace Drama
12.00-1.00am Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Comedy detective drama (1/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

1.00pm Live PGA Championship Golf Coverage of day one of the second Major of the year
7.00 Live Premier League: Newcastle United v Brighton & Hove Albion (Kick-off **7.30**) Coverage of the top-flight fixture from St James' Park
10.00pm-12.00m't Live PGA Championship Golf Day one of the second Major of the year, which takes place at Oak Hill East Course in Rochester, New York
2.00-4.30am Live NBA Basketball

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

7.00pm Live Premier League: Newcastle United v Brighton & Hove Albion (Kick-off **7.30**). Coverage of the top-flight match from St James' Park, featuring two teams seeking to secure qualification for European football next season. The Magpies look set for a top four finish that would see, while the Seagulls are aiming for a Europa or Conference League position
10.30-12.00m't David James: The One and Only



Justin Thomas defends his title at golf's seond major, the USPGA (Sky Main Event, from 1pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

2.50pm Live Indian Premier League: Sunrisers Hyderabad v Royal Challengers Bangalore Coverage of the T20 match from Rajiv Gandhi International Stadium, Hyderabad
7.00 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket
7.30 T20 Blast 2018
8.00 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket
9.00 IPL Sunrisers Hyderabad v Royal Challengers Bangalore
10.00 IPL Action from Punjab Kings v Delhi Capitals
11.00-12.00m't IPL

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

6.15pm The Football's On
7.15 Live Uefa Europa Conference League: AZ Alkmaar v West Ham United (Kick-off **8.00**). Coverage of the semi-final second-leg match from AFAS Stadion
10.30 Uefa Europa League Highlights Action from the semi-final second-leg ties
11.30 Premier League: The Big Interview A Premier League star
12.00-3.30am Live MLB: Toronto Blue Jays v New York Yankees (Start-time **12.07**)

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

10.00-3.30pm Live Badminton
7.00pm BT Sport Goals Reload
7.15 Ligue 1 Show
7.45 Live Uefa Europa League: Sevilla v Juventus (Kick-off **8.00**). Coverage of the semi-final second-leg match from Estadio Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan
10.00 The Football's On
11.00 Premier League Reload
11.15 BT Sport Goals Reload
11.30-2.30am UFC
3.00-8.30am Live Badminton Coverage of the quarter-finals

Thursday 18

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Three Hours to Kill (PG, 1954) Western with Dana Andrews and Donna Reed **12.35pm Comanche Station (PG, 1960)** Western drama starring Randolph Scott **2.10 High Noon (U, 1952)** Western starring Gary Cooper **3.55 Cutthroat Island (PG, 1995)** Swashbuckling adventure starring Geena Davis and Matthew Modine **6.15 Bridge of Spies (12, 2015)** Cold War drama starring Tom Hanks and Mark Rylance **9.00 The Book of Eli (15, 2010)** Action adventure with Denzel Washington and Gary Oldman. **See Film Choice** **11.15-1.30am Death Proof (18, 2007)** Thriller starring Kurt Russell and Rosario Dawson

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Honey West **6.30 The Ghost Camera (U, 1933)** Thriller with John Mills **7.50 The Body Vanished (PG, 1939)** Murder mystery starring Anthony Hulme **8.50 My Job** **9.00 Black Saddle** **9.30 Delayed Flight (U, 1964)** Thriller starring Helen Cherry **10.45 The Voice of Merrill (PG, 1952)** Murder mystery with James Robertson Justice **12.25pm Summertime (U, 1955)** Romantic drama starring Katharine Hepburn **2.20 Look at Life** **2.30 Crown Court** **3.00 The Lone Wolf Meets a Lady (PG, 1940)** Crime caper starring Warren William **4.30 The Third Alibi (PG, 1961)** Thriller with Laurence Payne and Patricia Dainton **5.50 Where No Vultures Fly (U, 1951)** Fact-based drama starring Anthony Steel **8.00 The Saint** **9.00 Justice** **10.00-12.00am Stop Me Before I Kill! (18, 1960)** Thriller starring Ronald Lewis

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Signed, Sealed, Delivered: Freedom To Forgive With Eric Mabius. **10.50 GREAT! Movie News** **11.00 An Inheritance to Die For: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2019)** Whodunit with Candace Cameron Bure **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News** **1.00 Garage Sale Mystery: Murder Most Medieval (PG, 2017)** Whodunit starring Lori Loughlin and Sarah Strange **2.50 GREAT! Movie News** **3.00 Alleged Abduction (12, 2019)** Mystery with Michelle Mylett and Jacob Blair **4.50 GREAT! Movie News** **5.00 Watching Over You (PG, 2018)** Thriller starring Andrea Bogart and Reagan Pasternak



Rosario Dawson stars in Death Proof (Film4, 11.15pm)

6.45 GREAT! Movie News **6.55 My Girl 2 (PG, 1994)** Comedy drama with Dan Aykroyd and Jamie Lee Curtis **9.00 The General's Daughter (18, 1999)** Murder mystery thriller starring John Travolta and Madeleine Stowe **11.20-1.35am The Whistleblower (15, 2010)** Fact-based drama with Rachel Weisz and Vanessa Redgrave

TCM Movies
SKY 315

7.35am Beau Brummell (U, 1954) Drama starring Stewart Granger and Elizabeth Taylor **9.55 Murder at the Gallop (U, 1963)** Miss Marple mystery starring Margaret Rutherford **11.40 Gun Glory (U, 1957)** Western with Stewart Granger **1.30pm A Thunder of Drums (PG, 1961)** Western starring Richard Boone, George Hamilton and Luana Patten. **3.35 How the West Was Won (PG, 1962)** Western with John Wayne and James Stewart **6.45 The Hanging Tree (PG, 1959)** Western with Gary Cooper and Maria Schell **9.00 Lethal Weapon 2 (18, 1989)** Action sequel starring Mel Gibson and Danny Glover **11.20-2.00am USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage (15, 2016)** Fact-based Second World War drama with Nicolas Cage and Tom Sizemore

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.00am Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022) Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville and Isabelle Huppert **2.00pm Vengeance (15, 2022)** Mystery drama starring BJ Novak and Boyd Holbrook **4.00 Ticket to Paradise (12, 2022)** Comedy romance starring George Clooney **6.00 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville **8.00 Dead Shot (15, 2023)** Thriller starring Colin Morgan **10.00 The Old Way (15, 2023)** Western starring Nicolas Cage and Ryan Kiera Armstrong **11.50-1.45am Piggy (18, 2022)** Horror starring Laura Galan and Richard Holmes

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright **6.00** Aasmah Mir and Stig Abell with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Mariella Frostrup. With Aasmah Mir on her new memoir **3.00** Jane Garvey and Fi Glover **5.00** John Pienaar **7.00** Pienaar and Friends **8.00** The Evening Edition with Kait Borsay **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **4.00** Sara Cox **6.30** Sara Cox's Half Wower **7.00** Jo Whiley's Shiny Happy Playlist **7.30** Jo Whiley **9.00** The Country Show **10.00** Trevor Nelson's Magnificent 7 **10.30** Trevor Nelson's Rhythm Nation **12.00** OJ Borg **3.00am** Sounds of the 90s (r) **4.00** Owain Wyn Evans

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast **9.00 Essential Classics** **12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky** Donald Macleod follows Tchaikovsky on tour **1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** Mediterranean Baroque music from LSO St Luke's, featuring Liam Byrne and Jonas Nordberg. Ortiz (*Spagna 1, Spagna 2 & Passamezzo*); Marais/De Visee (E minor Suite); St Colombe (D minor prelude & Chaconne) and Kaspberger (2 Toccatas) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** The Ulster Orchestra perform at Ulster Hall, Belfast. JS Bach (*Der Gerechte kömmt um*); Bacewicz (Divertimento for Strings); Verdi (String Quartet in E minor); Handel (Chaconne, HWV.435); Sibelius (Symphony no.6 in D minor, Op.104) and Ravel (Piano Concerto for the Left Hand in D) **5.00 In Tune** Pianist Keelan Carew joins Sean Rafferty **7.00 Classical Mixtape** Music curated by Jess Gillam **7.30 Live Radio 3 in Concert** The BBC Philharmonic and John Storgards are joined by the Estonian National Male Choir and bass-baritone Kostas Smoriginas. Arvo Pärt (*De profundis*); Sibelius (Violin Concerto) and Shostakovich (Symphony No.13 — *Babi Yar*) **10.00 Free Thinking** Matthew Sweet is joined by Simon Heffer and Tim Burrows **10.45 The Essay: De Waal's Itinerant Pots** The story of the Fonthill Vase (r) **11.00 The Night Tracks Mix** **11.30 Unclassified** (r) **12.30am Through the Night** (r)

Today's pick

In Our Time
Radio 4, 9am
Virgil's *Georgics*, written in the last century BC, offers poetic instruction for the proper care of the land and farm creatures, as well as reflecting on the comfort that the poet found in nature, away from the turbulence of the city. It is the subject of today's discussion. Melvyn Bragg's guests include Neville Morley, a professor of Classics and ancient history at the University of Exeter; Katharine Earnshaw, a senior lecturer in Classics and ancient history, also at Exeter; and Diana Spencer, *above*, a professor of Classics and dean of liberal arts and natural sciences at the University of Birmingham. Ben Dowell



Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing **5.43 Prayer for the Day** **5.45 Farming Today** **5.58 Tweet of the Day** (r) **6.00 Today** **8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament** Political news **9.00 In Our Time** The history of ideas. **See Choice** **9.45 Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police** By Matt Lloyd-Rose. Read by Jack Parris (4/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service** **10.00 Woman's Hour** **11.00 Crossing Continents** **11.30 Great Lives** (r) **12.01pm (LW) Shipping** **12.04 You and Yours** **12.30 Sliced Bread** **1.00 The World at One** **1.45 Frontlines of Journalism** Exploring how the same story can look very different **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: Yellow Lips** By Katie Redford (r) **3.00 Ramblings** New series. Walking the Thames Path **3.27 Radio 4 Appeal** (r) **3.30 Open Book** (r) **4.00 Princess** ***Black Panther's*** **Princess Shuri** **4.30 BBC Inside Science** **5.00 PM** **5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast** **6.00 Six O'Clock News** **6.30 It's a Fair Cop** (3/4) (r) **7.00 The Archers** Emma struggles to let go **7.15 Front Row** Arts news **8.00 A Celebration for Ascension Day** Live from St Martin-in-the-Fields in London **9.00 BBC Inside Science** (r) **9.30 In Our Time** (r) **10.00 The World Tonight** **10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece** By Tom Hanks (4/10) **11.00 Rylan: How to Be a Man** New series. With Hamza Yassin **11.30 Today in Parliament** **12.00 News and Weather** **12.30am Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police** (4/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast** **1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Adrian Chiles **1.00pm** Nihal Arthanayake **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport **8.00** 5 Live Sport: AZ Alkmaar v West Ham United (Kick-off 8.00) **10.30** Colin Murray **1.00am** Johnny I'Anson

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast with Alan Brazil **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Baker **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** Kick Off **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** The Julia Hartley-Brewer Breakfast Show **10.00** The Independent Republic of Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Jeremy Kyle **8.00** Piers Morgan **9.00** The Talk **10.00** Tom Newton Dunn **11.00** Andre Walker **1.00am** Paul Ross

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am The Burkiss Way **8.30** Thank You, Mrs Fothergill **9.00** Booked **9.30** Clare in the Community **10.00** Parson Harding's Daughter **11.00** Shadows in Bronze **11.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **12.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **12.15pm** Young Victoria **12.30** All Those Women **1.00** The Burkiss Way **1.30** Thank You, Mrs Fothergill **2.00** Booked **2.30** Clare in the Community **3.00** Parson Harding's Daughter **4.00** Shadows in Bronze **4.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **5.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **5.15** Young Victoria **5.30** All Those Women **6.00** The Burkiss Way **6.30** Thank You, Mrs Fothergill **7.00** Booked **7.30** Clare in the Community **8.00** Writing: The Midlands **9.00** Great Lives **9.30** A Gathering Light **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth **10.00** Comedy Club: It's a Fair Cop **10.30** Tom Wrigglesworth's Hang-Ups **11.00** Ida Barr: Artificial Hip Hop **11.15** Little Lifetimes **11.30** Rigor Mortis

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** Assignment **10.00** News **10.06** The Science Hour **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** The Food Chain **12.00** News **12.06pm** Outlook **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Healthcheck **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** The Inquiry **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** Outlook **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** Assignment **8.30** Science in Action **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** The Inquiry **10.30** The Food Chain **11.00** The Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The Science Hour **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Tech Tent **3.00** News **3.06** Outlook **3.50** Witness History **4.00** The Newsroom **4.30** Heart and Soul

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Lauren Laverne **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **6.00** Steve Lamacq's Roundtable **7.00** Marc Riley **9.00** Deb Grant **12.00** New Music Fix with Steve Lamacq **1.00am** New Music Fix with Mary Anne Hobbs

Virgin Radio
Digital only

6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Bam **10.00** Amy Voce **1.00am** Sean Goldsmith **4.00** Steve Denyer

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am More Music Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics. With Zeb Soanes **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Sam Pittis **4.00** Early Breakfast

Friday 19 | Viewing guide

Critic's choice Hidden Treasures of the National Trust

BBC2, 9pm

This week's episode is a notable one for visiting two rambling and stunning homes, each with its own fascinating literary history: Sissinghurst Castle in Kent, once owned by Vita Sackville-West and her husband, Harold Nicolson, *right*; and Bateman's in Sussex, the home of Rudyard Kipling from 1902 until his death in 1936. Sissinghurst is renowned for its garden, but the manor was in a dilapidated state when Sackville-West and Nicolson bought it in 1930 — a backdrop to their unconventional marriage. Now it needs a whole lot more attention. The writing room ceiling has collapsed, but this at least turned up some curiosities, such as phone numbers scrawled on the newly exposed plaster — the kind of detail that seems to reach across eras. When cross-referenced against Sackville-West's address book we see, for example, that Regency 2470 was her husband's number in London, while others belong to friends including Edith Sitwell and Freya Stark. We also hear from the home's gardener, things going full *Repair Shop* with the restoration of a terracotta urn, before an inspection from her granddaughter Juliet Nicolson. At Bateman's there are battles with woodworm and mildew, before a poignant note is struck during the cleaning of Kipling's maps of France. The writer's faint handmade marks tell a story of terrible personal loss — the Kiplings' only son, John, went missing during the Battle of Loos in the First World War and his body was never found. The house manager believes that the marks are a record of the couple's search in vain for their son, and for closure. James Jackson



Have I Got News for You

BBC1, 9pm

Mel Giedroyc is tonight's guest host, a gig that she has been doing on and off for years — this is the fifth time she has presided over Ian Hislop and Paul Merton's insolence/whimsy respectively. The guests are the *Newsnight* mainstay Kirsty Wark and the blind comedian Chris McCausland, who was last seen hugging a weeping Paul Gascoigne and telling Chris Eubank his nonsensical blather is like "a self-help audiobook you can't switch off" in *Scared of the Dark*, the recent, intellectually challenged reality show. **JJ**

Black Ops

BBC1, 9.30pm

This undercover-cop comedy continues with a third episode that bounces along at a fair clip, unafraid to have a bit of fun with racial stereotypes. That's OK because it's written by and stars *Famalam*'s Gbemisola Ikumelo as Dom, the bolshier half of the buddy-duo, with Hammed Animashaun as Kay, the naive, God-fearing one — out of their depth infiltrating a London gang. Kay has his faith in the church tested when he finds out what the charming Pastor Tommy gets up to at parties. Perhaps Kay should have spotted that he's not so holy when Tommy preached "God loves products!" to his flock. **JJ**

Concert by the Lake: Band du Lac

Sky Arts/Now, 10pm

Band du Lac was an all-star group briefly put together for charitable causes, and their 2005 gig at the Wintershall Estate in Surrey is one of those where greying rock luminaries crowd the stage. Eric Clapton provides the soloing on *Lay Down Sally* and *Cocaine*, Ringo Starr turns up (with a little help from his friends), Queen's Roger Taylor does *I Want to Break Free* and Gary Brooker *A Whiter Shade of Pale*; also in the mix are Katie Melua, Paul Carrack and Mike Rutherford. A finale of the Genesis track *I Can't Dance* is given the full fireworks treatment. **JJ**

Bump

BBC1, 11.25pm/11.55pm

Australian TV is having a moment. After *The Newsreader* and *Colin from Accounts* here is, concealed at a late hour, the return of Claudia Karvan's family drama — a hit down under; somewhat unsung here. It's about Oly, a suburban teenager who has a baby, but by this third series (newcomers should catch up on iPlayer) things have moved on five years. Oly and her daughter's father, Santi, are still navigating life as separated parents, which is complicated by Jacinda starting school. The sweet realism of it is deftly written — big emotions done with a light touch. It fast becomes highly moreish. **JJ**

Films of the day

Baby Done (15, 2020)

BBC3, 9pm

This Auckland-set rom-com about unwanted pregnancy bears the hallmarks of its executive producer Taika Waititi (deadpan one-liners; quirky but loveable characters). And it's filled with memorable performances. The writer Sophie Henderson and the director Curtis Vowell have concocted an amiable tale starring Rose Matafeo as Zoe, a thrill-seeking arborist with a doting English boyfriend, Tim, played by Matthew Lewis. Zoe and Tim, *below*, are free spirits, but when Zoe learns that she has a bun in the oven the stage is set for a rollercoaster of denial, frustration, rejection and eventual acceptance. This is familiar material (remember *Knocked Up*?), with the story unfolding episodically like a series of pithy comedy-show sketches. (91min) **Kevin Maher**



Escape from New York (15, 1981)

Film4, 1.30am

John Carpenter's pulpy, homage-ridden vision of a dystopian future (set in, er, 1997) remains a trashy guilty pleasure. After a sharp increase in crime, Manhattan has been turned into a maximum-security prison, run like a fascist police state and populated with the meanest baddies that early-1980s cinema had to offer (including Isaac Hayes). When the president inadvertently crash-lands on the island, the convict Snake Plissken (Kurt Russell) is trapped into rescuing him by the authorities. However, Snake isn't exactly a company man: "I don't give a f*** about your war or your president." The director and star later made a sequel, *Escape from LA* (1996), while a revival from the team behind the 2022 *Scream* sequel is in development. (99min) **Chris Bennion**

Catch up

Five Daughters
UKTV Play

This Bafta-nominated three-part drama, first shown on BBC1 in 2010, tells the story of the five women who were murdered in Ipswich by Steve Wright in 2006. The writer Stephen Butchard's title plays on that famous copper's phrase about the Yorkshire Ripper, "somebody's husband, somebody's son". If the only purpose of the drama — which stars Jaime Winstone, *below*, and Sarah Lancashire — was to make sure that these women were not reduced to their tragically brief careers as prostitutes, it would be a triumph. Three of their mothers co-operated in the making of the series and said that they were pleased with the result. "I want to open people's eyes," said the director Philippa Lowthorpe. "People think prostitutes are somehow different from us. I didn't realise how hard it is for them to get off drugs." **Joe Clay**



Regional programmes

• **BBC1 Wales As BBC1 except: 7.30pm** Wynne's Welsh 70s. Wynne Evans presents archive highlights from 1972 **8.00-8.30** Question of Sport. With Tammy Beaumont, Robbie Hunter-Paul, Maisie Summers-Newton and Fabrice Muamba **12.00midnight-12.30am** Bump

• **BBC1 N Ireland As BBC1 except: 3.00-3.30pm** Scam Interceptors (r) **7.30** Feed Yourself Fitter with Stephen Nolan. New series. Top chef Alex Greene offers the host tips on preparing low-cal delights **8.00-8.30** Question of Sport **10.45** The Chris & Rosie Ramsey Show **11.30** Bump **12.00midnight** Bump **12.35-2.05am FILM Weird Science (1985)**

• **BBC2 N Ireland As BBC2 except: 7.30pm** Elections 2023. The results of the 2023 local election **10.00-10.30pm** Beechgrove Garden. Calum Clunie sends an update from his allotment in Fife

• **BBC1 Scotland As BBC1 except: 11.15-12.15pm** Homes Under the Hammer **8.00-8.30pm** Landward (r)

• **ITV1 Wales As ITV1 except: 7.00-7.30pm** Backstage

• **STV As ITV1 except: 7.00-7.30pm** What's on Scotland **10.30-10.45** STV News **3.50-5.05am** Night Vision

• **UTV As ITV1 except: 4.00-6.00pm** Vote 23 **7.00-7.30pm** UTV Life

• **BBC Scotland 7.00pm** The Seven **7.30** Live Sportscene Premiership Play-Off. The first leg of the semi-final (Kick-off 7.45) **10.00** Still Game (r) **10.30** Limmy's Homemade Show (r) **11.00pm-Midnight** Mark Walters in the Footsteps of Andrew Watson (r)

• **S4C 6.00am** Cyw **12.00** News **12.05pm** Bois y Rhondda (r) **12.30** Heno (r) **1.00** Welsh Whisperer: Ni'n Teithio Nawr! (r) **1.30** Goreuon Gwesty Aduniad (r) **2.00** News **2.05** Prynhawn Da **3.00** News **3.05** Symud i Gymru (r) **4.00** Awr Fawr: Caru Canu a Stori (r) **4.10** Y Brodyr Coala (r) **4.20** Ein Byd Bach Ni (r) **4.30** Patrôl Pawennau (r) **4.45** Byd Tad-Cu (r) **5.00** Stwnsh: Ar Goll yn Oz (r) **5.20** Y Doniolis (r) **5.30** Bernard (r) **5.35** Cic (r) **5.45** Ffeil **6.00** Glannau Cymru o'r Awyr (r) **6.30** Garddio a Mwy. Meinir explores a special garden on Anglesey (r) **6.57** News S4C **7.00** Heno **7.30** News **8.00** Seiclo: Giro d'Italia. Highlights of stage 13 **8.55** News **9.00** Canu gyda Fy Arwr. Featuring Caryl Parry Jones and Non from the group Eden (r) **10.00** Ffit Cymru. The leaders complete the FFIT Cymru 5K National Challenge (r) **11.00-11.35** Cymry ar Gynfas. Artist Anna E Davies meets comedian Tudur Owen at Trearddur Bae (r)

(r) **repeat** (SL) **In-vision signing**

TV newsletter
Sign up to our TV bulletin offering the best TV and film tips, direct to your inbox every Friday. The newsletter covers the TV Editor's pick of box sets to stream, along with tips on the best programmes and films around. To start receiving it, digital subscribers can go to thetimes.co.uk/bulletins and tick the box next to "Television".

Friday 19

BBC1

6.00am Breakfast **9.15** Rip Off Britain **10.00** Frontline Fightback **10.45** Defenders UK (r) **11.15** Homes Under the Hammer (r) **12.15pm** Bargain Hunt **1.00** BBC News at One; Weather **1.30** BBC Regional News; Weather **1.45** Hope Street. A fishing trip goes horribly wrong when a boat's engine explodes (r) **2.30** Money for Nothing. EJ Osborne transforms an armchair (r) **3.00** Escape to the Country. Sonali Shah helps a couple to find a new home in Dorset **3.45** The Bidding Room. Items include an antique diving helmet and a Steiff bear (r) **4.30** The Repair Shop. A pair of football boots, a boxing trophy and a vintage globe (r) **5.15** Pointless. Quiz, hosted by Alexander Armstrong (r) **6.00** BBC News at Six; Weather **6.30** BBC Regional News; Weather



Host Mel Giedroyc (9pm)

7.00 The One Show Live chat and topical reports, presented by Alex Jones and Roman Kemp

7.30 Question of Sport With Tammy Beaumont, Robbie Hunter-Paul, Maisie Summers-Newton and Fabrice Muamba

8.00 Would I Lie to You? With Shirley Ballas, Steven Bartlett and Chris McCausland (3/12) (r)

8.30 MasterChef The 10 remaining cooks are challenged to serve up a dish the judges can eat with their hands

9.00 Have I Got News for You Mel Giedroyc guest hosts the quiz. **See Viewing Guide** (6/10)

9.30 Black Ops Dom comes up with a plan to get the cash needed to pay off the Brightmarsh Gang. **See Viewing Guide** (3/6)

10.00 BBC News at Ten

10.30 BBC Regional News

10.40 The Chris & Rosie Ramsey Show Chris and Rosie are joined by Michael and Jack Whitehall, among other star guests (2/6)

11.25 Bump New series. Jacinda's first day of kindergarten promises a new start for Oly and Santi. **See Viewing Guide** (1/10)

11.55 Bump Santi reconsiders introducing Jacinda to his new girlfriend Keeks (2/10)

12.30am FILM Weird Science (15, 1985) John Hughes' sci-fi comedy starring Kelly LeBrock and Anthony Michael Hall **2.00** Weather for the Week Ahead **2.05** BBC News

BBC2

6.15am Homes Under the Hammer (r) **7.15** Money for Nothing (r) **8.00** Sign Zone: Gardeners' World (r) (SL) **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** BBC News **12.15pm** Politics UK **1.00** Impossible (r) **1.45** Eggheads (r) **2.15** Eat Well for Less? Gregg Wallace and Chris Bavin advise students on improving their diets (r) **3.15** Secret Britain. The team explores Northern Ireland. Last in the series (r) **4.15** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr. The designers transform shepherd huts into boutique boltholes (r) **5.15** Flog It!. Visits to the Ulster Transport Museum (r) **6.00** Richard Osman's House of Games. Nabil Abdulrashid, Luke Kempner, Sarah Millican and Philippa Perry take part (r) **6.30** Clive Myrie's Italian Road Trip. Clive tracks down the best Prosecco. Last in the series



Detectorists Lance and Andy (10pm)

7.00 Villages by the Sea Ben Robinson explores the history of the village of Botallack (r)

7.30 Beechgrove Garden Kirsty Wilson and Lizzie Schofield show how the dahlia tubers planted in April are coming on

8.00 Gardeners' World Monty Don plants tropical gingers and tomatoes and direct sowing beans, and Rekha Mistry's shares the secrets of her success for growing aubergines on her London allotment

9.00 Hidden Treasures of the National Trust Inside the homes and hidden lives of writers Rudyard Kipling and Vita Sackville-West, as the National Trust work to preserve the writers' possessions. **See Viewing Guide** (2/6)

10.00 Detectorists Andy and Lance become eco-warriors (5/6) (r)

10.30 Newsnight The day's national and international news stories, presented by Faisal Islam

11.05 MOTDx Football discussion presented by Jermaine Jenas (r)

11.35 11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting Documentary about the attack on the 2017 Route 91 Harvest music festival in Las Vegas (1/4) (r)

12.20am 11 Minutes: America's Deadliest Mass Shooting. Documentary (r) **1.05** Sign Zone: Panorama (r) (SL) **1.35** Our Changing Planet (r) (SL) **2.35-3.35** Interior Design Masters with Alan Carr (r) (SL)

ITV1

6.00am Good Morning Britain **9.00** Lorraine **10.00** This Morning **12.30pm** Loose Women. Celebrity interviews and topical debate from a female perspective **1.30** ITV News; Weather **1.55** Regional News; Weather **2.00** Dickinson's Real Deal. The dealers visit Blackburn, Lancashire, where Matt Taylor attempts to score with a football jersey and Alys Dobbie tries to walk away with a pair of luxury vintage boots (r) **3.00** Tenable. A team of running club friends take it in turns to find the answers to top 10 lists, before trying to score a perfect 10 in the final round (r) **4.00** Tipping Point. Ben Shephard hosts the arcade-themed quiz **5.00** The Chase. Quiz show hosted by Bradley Walsh **6.00** Regional News; Weather **6.30** ITV News; Weather



Rom-com The Proposal (10.45pm)

7.30 Emmerdale Liam is taken aback when Wendy lies to Bob to spend time with him, while Mandy only has eyes for one

8.00 Coronation Street Gary quizzes Faye about her feelings for Jackson. Steve and Tracy realise they will have to sell their businesses to fund the legal fees, while Eric and Aaron's solicitor warns them of the risk of taking the case to court

9.00 I'm a Celebrity South Africa Unseen Ant and Dec host as memorable campmates from past series of *I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here!* compete. This episode features hitherto unseen clips from the series

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather

10.30 Regional News

10.45 FILM The Proposal (12, 2009) A publishing editor in New York faces deportation. Desperate to stay in America, she offers her assistant a promotion if he will marry her, but an immigration official becomes suspicious and the pair are forced to go to desperate lengths. Romantic comedy starring Sandra Bullock and Ryan Reynolds

12.40am English Football League Highlights. Action from the play-offs (r) **1.30** Teleshopping **3.00** I'm a Celebrity South Africa Unseen. Hitherto unseen clips from the series (r) (SL) **3.50** Unwind with ITV **5.05** Ainsley's Caribbean Kitchen (r) (SL)

Channel 4

6.05am Countdown (r) **6.45** Cheers (r) **7.10** Cheers (r) **7.35** The King of Queens (r) **8.00** The King of Queens (r) **8.25** Frasier (r) **8.55** Frasier (r) **9.25** Frasier (r) **9.55** Find It, Fix It, Flog It (r) **10.55** Couples Come Dine with Me (r) **11.55** Channel 4 News Summary **12.00** Steph's Packed Lunch **2.10pm** Countdown **3.00** Sun, Sea and Selling Houses. In Almería, Steve and Sharon Garner help a duo find their perfect holiday home (r) **4.00** A Place in the Sun. A couple seek a home in Spain's Málaga Province **5.00** Help! We Bought a Village. A couple from Norwich get married at their hamlet in the Limousin (r) **6.00** The Simpsons. Bart becomes Nelson's best friend (r) **6.30** Hollyoaks. Ste and James come up with a plan to prove their love for each other (r)



Comedy Trading Places (12.10am)

7.00 Channel 4 News Including sport and weather

7.30 Unreported World Minnie Stephenson reports on bans on drag-queen performances in Tennessee

8.00 The Big Interiors Battle The remaining designers address living room week, and with just four contestants left in the competition, the prize is within reach (5/8)

9.00 Gogglebox The armchair critics share their opinions on what they have been watching during the week, with cameras capturing their instant reactions and the lively discussions that are prompted by the week's biggest and best shows

10.00 The Lateish Show with Mo Gilligan The RTS award-winning and Bafta-nominated comedian and actor chews the fat with big-name guests including Hollywood star Will Poulter, DJ Joel Corry and former *Strictly* champion Rose Ayling-Ellis

11.05 Sean Lock: Purple Van Man The late lamented comedian's stand-up show, recorded in front of a sell-out audience at London's Hammersmith Apollo in 2013, in which he offers the audience a uniquely skewed take on the world (r)

12.10am FILM Trading Places (15, 1983) Comedy starring Dan Aykroyd and Eddie Murphy **2.05** Ramsay's Kitchen Nightmares USA. A restaurant in Connecticut (r) (SL) **2.55** Come Dine with Me (r) **5.05** Jamie's Comfort Food (r) **5.15** Moneybags. Quiz series (r)

Channel 5

6.00am Milkshake! **9.15** Jeremy Vine **11.15** Storm Huntley. Debate on the day's talking points continues **12.15pm** Alexis Conran. Important stories of the day **1.40** 5 News at Lunchtime **1.45** Home and Away. Tane and Felicity's wedding day arrives, and proves chaotic (r) **2.15 FILM Never Let You Go (PG, TVM, 2021)** A radio DJ questions her ex's intentions when he re-enters her life just as a mysterious stalker begins targeting her at her radio show. Drama starring Jillian Murray **4.00** Bargain-Loving Brits in the Sun. Return of the documentary (r) **5.00** 5 News at 5 **6.00** Eggheads. Hoping to vanquish the brainy behemoths on Friday are Foregone Conclusion (r) **6.30** Eggheads. The Biscuit Fan Club take on the experts (r) **6.55** 5 News Update



Are You Being Served? (9pm)

7.00 Michael Portillo's Pyrenees Adventure The broadcaster retraces the route through the Catalonian Pyrenees his father used to flee in 1939 as a political refugee from the Spanish Civil War (4/4) (r); followed by 5 News Update

8.00 Susan Calman's Grand Day Out The presenter steers her campervan around some of the beautiful spots of Devon and the south coast of England, and gets the chance to dig into the footsteps of fossil hunter Mary Anning (2/12)

9.00 Are You Being Served?: Secrets and Scandals Behind the scenes of the sitcom, revealing how the show's creators had to fight the BBC throughout its run to keep it on air and the personal tragedies that befell the cast (r)

10.00 FILM Are You Being Served? (PG, 1977) Havoc descends on the coast of Spain as staff from Grace Brothers arrive for their annual holiday on the Costa Plonka, which does not exactly live up to the brochure's promise of rest and relaxation. Comedy based spin-off starring John Inman, Wendy Richard, Mollie Sugden, Frank Thornton and Arthur English

12.00 The 70s: Songs from the Movie (r) **1.00** Teleshopping **3.00** The Yorkshire Vet (r) (SL) **3.55** Witches: A Century of Murder (r) **4.40** Wildlife SOS (r) (SL) **5.05** House Doctor (r) (SL) **5.30** Milkshake! Monkey's Amazing Adventures **5.45** Paw Patrol

Friday 19 | Primetime digital guide



Madonna

The singer features in the documentary Viva La Diva: The Queens of Pop
BBC4, 10pm

FV Freeview **FS** Freesat

TalkTV
FV 237, FS 217, SKY 522, VIRGIN 606

6.00am James Max An insight into the day's top stories
6.30 Jeremy Kyle Political panel debates and interviews
10.00 The Independent Republic of Mike Graham
1.00pm Ian Collins Hard-hitting monologues and debates
4.00 Vanessa Feltz The host guides you through the big stories of the day
7.00 Plank of the Week
8.00 Friday Night with Nadine Nadine Dorries presents her take on the week with a mix of guests from the world of politics, culture and sport
9.00 What Just Happened? with Kevin O'Sullivan The host wraps up another eventful week in the world of news
9.30 The Royal Tea
10.00 The Best of the Talk A panel of guests debate the topics everybody's talking about
11.00-12.00m't Friday Night with Nadine

BBC3
FV 23, FS 179, SKY 115, VIRGIN 107

7.00pm Top Gear (5/7)
8.00 Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond Pilot Stefano is about to hit a major milestone in his career, while Jenna struggles with work-life balance as her daughter is about to start school (6/10)
8.30 Sky High Club: Scotland and Beyond Stefano treats his mum to a surprise flight to thank her for the support she has given him throughout his career, and Ailidh takes her Spanish pal Omar to the beach (7/10)
9.00 FILM Baby Done (15, 2020) A wannabe-adventurer freaks out when she falls pregnant, and attempts to rush through her dreams before becoming a mother. Comedy starring Rose Matafeo. **See Film Choice**
10.25 I Kissed a Boy (1/8)
11.15-12.05am I Kissed a Boy (2/8)

BBC4
FV 9/24, FS 173, SKY 116, VIRGIN 108

7.00pm Top of the Pops Music by Suede, Naomi Campbell, Cyndi Lauper, Whigfield and Elton John
7.30 Top of the Pops Music by 2 Unlimited, the Cranberries, the Kinks, East 17 and Shane MacGowan
8.00 Top of the Pops Featuring D Train, New Edition, David Grant, Blancmange, the Beat and Wham!
8.30 Top of the Pops Performances by Cameo, Whitney Houston, Starship and Wet Wet Wet
9.00 Queens of Song at the BBC A selection of songs by female artists
10.00 Viva La Diva: The Queens of Pop Profiles of Beyoncé, Cher, Grace Jones, Madonna and Mariah Carey
11.00-12.55am FILM Grace Jones: Bloodlight and Bami (15, 2017) Documentary profile of the singer

More 4
FV 18, FS 124, SKY 136, VIRGIN 147

6.55pm Escape to the Château: DIY Dick offers his advice to a couple constructing a water feature (8/15)
7.55 Grand Designs A couple give a 1950s house a modernist makeover
9.00 Astrid: Murder in Paris A woman is accused of murdering her godfather. Astrid and Raphaelle hunt for the truth, but Raphaelle winds up in the worst trouble of her career. In French. Last in the series (8/8)
10.15 24 Hours in A&E A patient is airlifted to the hospital after being involved in a high-speed collision on the M25, and another is put into a coma after an accident while playing football (1/6)
11.20-12.25am 24 Hours in A&E A man arrives in resus with suspected internal bleeding after crashing his car (2/6)

Sky Atlantic
SKY 108

6.50pm True Blood Bill asks his superiors for permission to put Eric to death. Sookie sets out in search of Jason under the light of the full moon, and Jesus introduces Lafayette to his grandfather (6/12) (R)
7.55 Game of Thrones Robb weighs up a compromise to repair his alliance with House Frey, Roose Bolton decides what to do with Jaime, while Jon, Ygritte and the wildlings face a daunting climb (6/10) (R)
9.00 Souls A teenage boy claims to remember a past life as a pilot of a missing passenger plane. (1/8) (R)
10.00 Souls A school project further throws Jacob's sense of self (2/8) (R)
11.00-12.05am Yellowjackets The girls play with guns to determine who is the most responsible (4/10) (R)

Sky Documentaries
SKY 121, VIRGIN 277

7.00pm Maralinga Documentary shining a light on the Maralinga people of South Australia, who have survived aggressive colonisation among other tragedies, as they fight to retain their country (R)
8.00 Escobar by Escobar The story behind the cursed Escobar empire (4/4) (R)
9.00 The Man Who Played with Fire Documentary about the assassination of Swedish prime minister Olof Palme in 1986 (1/4) (R)
10.00 I Am Paul Walker Exploring the life of actor Paul Walker, who rose to fame in the *Fast and Furious* franchise, but died at the age of 40 after a car crash (R)
11.50-1.40am Brazil 2002 Documentary following the Brazilian national team through the 2002 World Cup (R)

ITV2
FV 6, FS 113, SKY 118, VIRGIN 115

7.00pm Superstore Amy does not feel ready to start dating again so soon after her divorce
7.30 Superstore Jonah tries to help Amy secure a hot new video game
8.00 Bob's Burgers
8.30 Bob's Burgers
9.00 FILM Fast & Furious 7 (12, 2015) A rogue special forces assassin seeks revenge against Dom, Brian and their crew for putting his brother in a coma. Action thriller starring Vin Diesel
11.45-12.10am Family Guy

ITV3
FV 10, FS 115, SKY 119, VIRGIN 117

7.00pm Heartbeat An arson attack on the home of a talented artist leads to suspicions that the man's patron was to blame, while Greengrass has limited success running a B&B.
8.00 Doc Martin PC Penhale tries to persuade Maggie to stay in Portwenn (6/8)
9.00 Doc Martin Bert struggles to repay two loan sharks (7/8)
10.00-12.05am Wire in the Blood Feature-length thriller starring Robson Green (5/5)

ITV4
FV 26, FS 117, SKY 120, VIRGIN 118

7.00pm BattleBots Undefeated bots Bronco and Duck duke it out in the battlebox as the race to become *BattleBots* World Champion heats up
8.00 The 1% Club Quiz hosted by Lee Mack in which the questions are all about logic and common sense (3/8)
9.00 All Elite Wrestling: Dynamite Hard-hitting action
11.05-12.05am English Football League Highlights Action from the play-offs

E4
FV 13, FS 122, SKY 135, VIRGIN 106

7.00pm Hollyoaks At the youth centre, Felix is on the receiving end of a warning
7.30 The Big Bang Theory Penny plans a party for Leonard
8.00 Below Deck Sailing Yacht Ciara and Parker get in a spat about deck duties
9.00 FILM Ghost in the Shell (12, 2017) Sci-fi adventure starring Scarlett Johansson
11.00-12.05am Naked Attraction A model and a veterinary student choose dates

Dave
FV 19, FS 157, SKY 111, VIRGIN 127

7.00pm Richard Osman's House of Games Double-bill
8.20 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Paul teaches Bob how to fly fish for rainbow trout
9.00 Mortimer & Whitehouse: Gone Fishing Paul and Bob fish the river Wensum in Norfolk
9.40 Meet the Richardsons Lucy goes on a wild night out in London
10.20 Meet the Richardsons Jon and Lucy attend a Halloween party
11.00 QI XL Extended edition
12.00-12.40am Mock the Week

Drama
FV 20, FS 158, SKY 143, VIRGIN 130

6.40pm Last of the Summer Wine Comedy. Tom's niece disappears
7.20 Last of the Summer Wine Compo's son runs into trouble
8.00 Father Brown Lady Felicia and Mrs McCarthy end up taken hostage when a robbery goes awry
9.00 Smother Val increases her efforts to find out the truth, while Rory makes long-overdue amends
10.10 New Tricks Brian thinks his days with Ucos are numbered, and a 16-year-old case is reopened
11.10-1.15am Silent Witness

Yesterday
FV 27, FS 159, SKY 155, VIRGIN 129

7.00pm Fred Dibnah's Building of Britain Documentary (6/6)
7.30 The Fred Dibnah Story (1/6)
8.00 Classic Car Garage Colin helps a 1978 Austin Allegro's owner with their wonky suspension (5/10)
9.00 Great American Railroad Journeys Michael Portillo looks at the history of the US rail network
10.00 Bangers and Cash Rolls-Royces and Bentleys (10/10)
11.00 Abandoned Engineering
12.00-12.30am Great British Railway Journeys (2/15)

PBS America
FV 84, FS 155, SKY 174, VIRGIN 273

6.15pm Saving Egypt's Temples
7.20 The True Story of King Tut's Treasure Reconstruction
8.35 Mussolini: The First Fascist An exploration into the life of the man who invented fascism (2/2)
9.45 Ku Klux Klan: An American Story Through its secret history, from creation to the present day
10.55 The True Story of King Tut's Treasure Reconstructing Tutankhamun's tomb and contents
12.00-1.15am Mussolini: The First Fascist Documentary (2/2)

Sky Arts
FV 11, FS 147, SKY 130, VIRGIN 140

7.00pm Music Videos That Defined the 2000s A selection of the most memorable promos of the decade
8.00 Guy Garvey: From the Vaults Tina Turner's career reaches new heights thanks to *The Tube*
9.00 The Yardbirds: Music Icons The career of the group (13/13)
9.30 Cream: Music Icons A look at the music of the rock group (3/13)
10.00-12.30am Eric Clapton: Concert by the Lake: Band du Lac From 2005. **See Viewing Guide**

Sky History
SKY 123, VIRGIN 270

7.00pm Forged in Fire The largest sword in the history of the series
8.00 Salvage Kings Reality series. Ted and Nick hit a 1960s bungalow in a celebrity neighbourhood
9.00 Secret Wars Uncovered The 1983 invasion of Grenada
10.00 Deadly Standoff The story of two marijuana advocates gunned down by the FBI (6/6)
11.00 The Proof Is Out There
11.30 The Proof Is Out There
12.00-1.00am Secret Societies: In the Shadows Documentary

Sky Max
SKY 113, VIRGIN 111

7.00pm Stargate SG-1 (1/2) A new arrival plans to reunite the team
8.00 A League of Their Own: European Road Trip Jamie Redknapp and Andrew Flintoff head to Italy (4/6)
9.00 Bel-Air Ashley's favourite teacher is fired (3/10)
10.00 Fast & Furious: Greatest Moments Refuelled
11.00 Strike Back: Shadow Warfare Martinez becomes infected (10/10)
12.00-1.00am The Force: North East Factual crime (10/10)

Nat Geographic
SKY 129, VIRGIN 266, BT 351

7.00pm Air Crash Investigation The 1999 plane crash that killed John F Kennedy Jr and his wife
8.00 Airport Security: Peru In Lima, a suspect is found in an unlikely location (2/16)
9.00 To Catch a Smuggler Finding looted ancient artifacts (3/16)
10.00 Airport Security: Colombia At El Dorado International (9/9)
11.00 Hitler's American Battleground Documentary (2/2)
12.00-1.00am Air Crash Investigation Documentary

Discovery
SKY 125, VIRGIN 250

7.00pm Kindig Customs
8.00 Gold Rush: Parker's Trail
9.00 Viagra: The Little Blue Pill That Changed The World New series. The untold story of Viagra
10.00 Estonia A team set off to examine the wreck of the *Estonia*
11.30-12.30am Naked and Afraid XL The most difficult part begins

Sky Comedy
SKY 114, VIRGIN 112, BT 346

7.00pm Breeders (10/10)
7.30 Young Rock (6/13)
8.00 American Auto (9&10/13)
9.00 Curb Your Enthusiasm (7/10)
9.35 Curb Your Enthusiasm (8/10)
10.10 Curb Your Enthusiasm (9/10)
10.45 The Tonight Show Starring Jimmy Fallon American chat show
11.45-12.25am Barry (6/8)

Comedy Central
SKY 112, VIRGIN 132, BT 344

7.00pm Friends Four episodes
9.00 FILM The Break-Up (12, 2006) Comic drama with Jennifer Aniston and Vince Vaughn
11.00 Reno 911! A petty criminal becomes an evangelist in prison
11.30 Reno 911! The annual ball
12.00-12.30am Digman! The gang search for Amelia Earhart's plane

Gold
SKY 110, VIRGIN 124, BT 343

7.00pm Hi-de-Hi! Classic comedy
7.40 Dad's Army Double bill
9.00 dinnerladies Comedy. A convict escapes near the factory
9.40 Victoria Wood's All Day Breakfast Sketches from 1992
10.50 The Office The first episode
11.30-12.10am This Time with Alan Partridge An SAS training mission

W
FV 25, FS 156, SKY 132, VIRGIN 125

7.00pm Inside the Ambulance
8.00 999 Rescue Squad A truck drives through a motorway barrier
9.00 24 Hours in A&E Seventy-five-year-old Gerry is rushed to A&E with a dangerously high heart rate
10.00 Gavin & Stacey Triple bill
12.00-1.00am Louis Theroux: Behind Bars Documentary

Alibi
SKY 109, VIRGIN 126

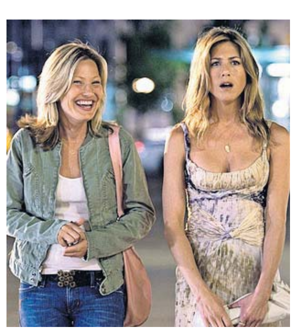
7.00pm Person of Interest (6/13)
8.00 Father Brown (12/15)
9.00 Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators (4/9)
10.00 Death in Paradise (2/8)
11.00 Without a Trace Drama
12.00-1.00am Shakespeare & Hathaway: Private Investigators Comedy detective drama (2/10)

Sky Main Event
SKY 401, VIRGIN 511, BT 440

11.00am Live NRL: South Sydney Rabbitohs v Parramatta Eels
1.00pm Live PGA Championship Golf Coverage of the second round of the second Major of the year
7.30 Live EFL A League One semi-final match (Kick-off **8.00**)
10.30 Live PGA Championship Golf Coverage of day two
12.00-1.00am Live Ladies European Tour Golf Coverage of the opening round of the Aramco Team Series event from Florida
1.30-4.00am Live NBA Basketball

Sky Premier League
SKY 402, VIRGIN 512

1.00pm Total Football Get the definitive take from the managers
2.00 Total Football
3.00-3.30 Total Football
7.00 Premier League Preview
7.30 Premier League: The Big Interview
8.00 PL Highlights
8.30 Gary Neville's Soccerbox
9.00 Premier League Preview
9.30 Premier League: The Big Interview
10.00 Premier League Icons
10.30-12.30am PL Retro



Joey Lauren Adams and Jennifer Aniston star in The Break-Up (Comedy Central, 9pm)

Sky Cricket
SKY 404, VIRGIN 514

2.50pm Live Indian Premier League: Punjab Kings v Rajasthan Royals Coverage of the T20 match from Himachal Pradesh Cricket Association Stadium, Dharamsala
7.00 T20 Blast 2006
7.15 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket
7.45 Best of T20 Blast Finals Day
8.00 Vitality T20 Blast Cricket
9.00 IPL Action from Punjab Kings v Rajasthan Royals
10.00 IPL Sunrisers Hyderabad v Royal Challengers Bangalore
11.00-12.00m't IPL

BT Sport 1
SKY 413, VIRGIN 527, BT 430

8.00-10.00am Live Isuzu UTE A-League
10.30-1.30pm Live AFL: Port Adelaide Power v Melbourne Demons (Bounce-up **10.50**)
7.00pm BT Sport Reload
7.15 Live European Rugby Challenge Cup (Kick-off **8.00**)
10.30 Premier League Preview
11.00 Scottish Football Extra
11.30pm-12.00m't Live UFC Live
1.00-3.00am Live WWE Friday Night SmackDown Wrestling
4.30-6.00am Live AFL

BT Sport 2
SKY 414, VIRGIN 528, BT 431

10.00-3.30pm Live Badminton
7.00pm What I Wore: Steven Gerrard The player's shirts
7.15 Ligue 1 Show
7.45 Live Ligue 1: Lyon v AS Monaco (Kick-off **8.00**)
10.00 Uefa Champions League Magazine The latest news
10.30 Behind the Game
11.00pm-12.00m't WWE NXT Highlights Wrestling action
1.00-4.30am Live MLB St Louis Cardinals v Los Angeles Dodgers (Start-time **1.15**) At Busch Stadium

Friday 19

Film guide

Film4
FV 14 FS 300 SKY 313

11.00am Tobruk (PG, 1967) Adventure starring Rock Hudson and George Peppard **1.25pm The Quiet Man (U, 1952)** Romantic comedy drama starring John Wayne **4.15 To Hell and Back (PG, 1955)** Second World War biopic starring Audie Murphy **6.35 Gods of Egypt (12, 2016)** Fantasy adventure starring Nikolaj Coster-Waldau **9.00 Hereditary (15, 2018)** Horror mystery starring Toni Collette and Milly Shapiro **11.35 48 Hrs (15, 1982)** Comedy thriller starring Nick Nolte and Eddie Murphy **1.30-3.35am Escape from New York (15, 1981)** Sci-fi action adventure starring Kurt Russell. **See Film Choice**

Talking Pictures TV
FV 82 FS 306 SKY 328 VIRGIN 445

6.00am Ensign O'Toole 6.30 Thunder in the City (PG, 1937) Crime comedy starring Edward G Robinson **8.10 Flannelfoot (PG, 1953)** Crime thriller starring Ronald Howard and Mary Germaine **9.35 Sons of the Sea (U, 1939)** Adventure with Leslie Banks **11.10 The Bold and the Brave (PG, 1956)** Drama with Mickey Rooney and Wendell Corey **12.55pm Saloon Bar (PG, 1940)** Mystery with Gordon Harker and Elizabeth Allan **2.30 Crown Court 3.00 Oliver Twist (U, 1948)** Drama starring Alec Guinness **5.25 Go Go with Matt Monro 6.00 Time to Remember 6.30 Away for the Day in 1952 6.55 An Inspector Calls (PG, 1954)** Drama with Alastair Sim **8.30 Dial 999 9.00 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro 9.05 The Blood on Satan's Claw (18, 1971)** Horror starring Patrick Wymark **11.00 Cellar Club with Caroline Munro 11.05-12.40am Carnival of Souls (15, 1962)** Horror starring Candace Hilligoss

GREAT! Movies
FV 34 FS 302 SKY 321 VIRGIN 425

9.00am Lost Letter Mysteries: To the Altar (PG, 2018) Drama starring Geoff Gustafson and Crystal Lowe **10.50 GREAT! Movie News 11.00 A Very Foul Play: An Aurora Teagarden Mystery (PG, 2019)** Whodunit starring Candace Cameron Bure **12.50pm GREAT! Movie News 1.00 The Beach Murders: Garage Sale Mystery (PG, 2017)** Crime drama with Lori Loughlin and Chiara Zanni **2.50 GREAT! Movie News 3.00 Deadly Switch (PG, 2019)** Thriller with Hayley McLaughlin and Teri Polo **4.50 GREAT! Movie News**



Jamie Lee Curtis in Hallowe'en Ends (Sky Premiere, 10pm)

5.00 Fatal Reunion (12, 2005) Thriller starring Erika Eleniak **6.55 Welcome to the Jungle (12, 2003)** Action comedy starring Dwayne Johnson **9.00 Terminal Velocity (15, 1994)** Thriller with Charlie Sheen and Nastassja Kinski **11.10-1.30am A Bronx Tale (18, 1993)** Drama starring Robert De Niro and Chazz Palminteri

TCM Movies
SKY 315

7.35am The Wrong Man (PG, 1956) Drama starring Henry Fonda and Vera Miles **9.45 The Treasure of the Sierra Madre (PG, 1948)** Western starring Humphrey Bogart and Walter Huston **12.20pm Canyon Raiders (PG, 1951)** Western starring Whip Wilson and Fuzzy Knight **1.30 Wagons West (U, 1952)** Western starring Rod Cameron and Frank Ferguson **3.00 Will Penny (12, 1967)** Western starring Charlton Heston and Joan Hackett **5.15 Murder Ahoy (U, 1964)** Agatha Christie mystery starring Margaret Rutherford **7.10 Cattle King (U, 1963)** Western starring Robert Taylor and Joan Caulfield **9.00 Absolute Power (15, 1997)** Crime thriller with Clint Eastwood and Gene Hackman **11.35-1.55am Demolition Man (15, 1993)** Sci-fi thriller starring Sylvester Stallone

Sky Cinema Premiere
SKY 301 VIRGIN 401

12.15pm Dead Shot (15, 2023) Thriller starring Colin Morgan **2.15 Vengeance (15, 2022)** Mystery drama starring BJ Novak and Boyd Holbrook **4.10 Mrs Harris Goes To Paris (PG, 2022)** Comedy drama starring Lesley Manville **6.10 The Old Way (15, 2023)** Western starring Nicolas Cage and Ryan Kiera Armstrong **8.00 Ticket to Paradise (12, 2022)** Comedy romance starring George Clooney **10.00-12.00am Hallowe'en Ends (18, 2022)** Premiere. Laurie Strode rebuilds her life with granddaughter, until evil returns to town. Horror sequel starring Jamie Lee Curtis

Radio guide

Times Radio
Digital, web, smart speaker, app

5.00am Rosie Wright with Early Breakfast **6.00** Chloe Tilley and Calum Macdonald with Times Radio Breakfast **10.00** Matt Chorley **1.00pm** Ruth Davidson. With the photographer Rankin **4.00** Cathy Newman **7.00** Ed Vaizey **10.00** Henry Bonsu **1.00am** Stories of Our Times **1.30** Red Box **2.00** Highlights from Times Radio

Radio 2
FM: 88-90.2 MHz

6.30am The Gary Davies Breakfast Show **9.30** Vernon Kay **12.00** Jeremy Vine **2.00pm** Scott Mills **3.30** Scott Mills' Wonder Years **4.00** Sara Cox **7.00** Michelle Visage **8.30** Michelle Visage's Handbag Hits **9.00** The Good Groove **11.00** The Rock Show **12.00** Romesh Ranganathan: For the Love of Hip-Hop **1.00am** Robin Gibb at the BBC (r) **2.00** The Birth of Sparks: From Beach Boys to Blighty **3.00** Radio 2 Unwinds **4.00** Sophie Ellis-Bextor

Radio 3
FM: 90.2-92.4 MHz

6.30am Breakfast 9.00 Essential Classics 12.00 Composer of the Week: Tchaikovsky Donald Macleod examines Tchaikovsky's final ballet, *The Nutcracker* **1.00pm Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert** With Spanish baroque ensemble Forma Antiqua. Nicolas Conforto (*Sinfonia De La Nitteti*); Vicente Baset (*Sinfonia a Piu' Stromenti* Bas-3) and Luigi Boccherini (*Tempo Di Minuetto*, Op.6) **2.00 Afternoon Concert** Fiona Talkington concludes a week of concerts featuring the Ulster Orchestra performing at Ulster Hall, Belfast. Monteverdi (*Rimanti in pace*); JS Bach (*Chromatic Fantasia and Fugue*); Mozart (Symphony no.36 in C, K.425 — *Linz*) and Lupo (*Fantasia* in A minor) **4.30 The Listening Service** (r) **5.00 In Tune** Music news. **7.00 Classical Mixtape** Sean Rafferty picks 30 minutes of music to help soothe the soul **7.30 Radio 3 in Concert** With the BBC Symphony Orchestra conducted by Sakari Oramo. Kaija Saariaho (*Du Cristal*; *Saarikoski Songs* and *Circle Map* — UK Premiere) **10.00 The Verb 10.45 The Essay: De Waal's Itinerant Pots** Edmund de Waal reflects on a phone call with the ceramicist Magdalene Odundo (r) **11.00 Late Junction** A mixtape by James Acaster. **See Choice 1.00am Composed with Devonté Hynes 2.00 Piano Flow with Gabriels 3.00 Through the Night**

Today's pick

Late Junction
Radio 3, 11pm
As well as being a comedian, James Acaster, *right*, is a man of refined musical tastes and the pioneer of a 40-strong international music collective called Temps. In lockdown his plan for a mockumentary about a naive comedian turned musician morphed into launching a record called *Party Gator Purgatory* (there's a story in that title). His mix tape offers the presenter Verity Sharp tracks from



artists including the Brazilian vocalist Elza Soares, the American singer-songwriter and guitarist Marnie Stern and the experimental hip-hop trio Sooper Swag Project.
Ben Dowell

Radio 4
FM: 92.4-94.6 MHz
LW: 198 kHz MW: 720 kHz

5.30am News Briefing 5.43 Prayer for the Day 5.45 Farming Today 5.58 Tweet of the Day (r) **6.00 Today 8.31 (LW) Yesterday in Parliament** Political news **9.00 Desert Island Discs** (r) **9.45 Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police** By Matt Lloyd-Rose. The author recalls completing his final shift on duty (5/5) **9.45 (LW) Daily Service 10.00 Woman's Hour 11.00 Is Psychiatry Working: Anxiety** Documentary (r) **11.30 Ed Reardon's Week** (r) **12.01pm (LW) Shipping 12.04 Whatever Happened to JB Priestley** (r) **1.00 The World at One 1.45 Frontlines of Journalism** How journalists should deal with repeated lies (10/10) **2.00 The Archers** (r) **2.15 Drama: An Eye for a Killing** By Colin MacDonald. With Gavin Mitchell (4/5) **2.45 One to One** (r) **3.00 Gardeners' Question Time** Listeners' queries **3.45 Short Works** New series. *The Suit*, by Colin Carberry **4.00 Last Word 4.30 Feedback 5.00 PM 5.54 (LW) Shipping Forecast 6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 The News Quiz 7.00 The Archers** Natasha has a fight on her hands **7.15 Screenshot 8.00 Any Questions?** A debate **8.50 A Point of View 9.00 Frontlines of Journalism** Omnibus edition (r) **10.00 The World Tonight 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Making of Another Major Motion Picture Masterpiece** By Tom Hanks (5/10) **11.00 Americast 11.30 Today in Parliament 12.00 News and Weather 12.30am Book of the Week: Into the Night — A Year with the Police** (5/5) (r) **12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As BBC World Service**

Radio 5 Live
MW: 693, 909

5.00am Wake Up to Money **6.00** 5 Live Breakfast **9.00** Nicky Campbell **11.00** Chiles on Friday **1.00pm** The Footballers' Football Podcast **1.30** Kammy & Ben's Proper Football Podcast **2.00** Elis James and John Robins **4.00** 5 Live Drive **7.00** 5 Live Sport: The Friday Football Social. Preview **10.00** Stephen Nolan **1.00am** Laura McGhie

talkSPORT
MW: 1053, 1089 kHz

5.00am Early Breakfast **6.00** talkSPORT Breakfast **10.00** Jim White and Simon Jordan **1.00pm** Hawksbee and Jacobs **4.00** talkSPORT Drive with Andy Goldstein and Darren Bent **7.00** GameDay Countdown **10.00** Sports Bar **1.00am** Extra Time

TalkRadio
Digital only

5.00am James Max **6.30** Jeremy Kyle **10.00** Mike Graham **1.00pm** Ian Collins **4.00** Vanessa Feltz **7.00** Plank of the Week **8.00** Friday Night with Nadine **9.00** What Just Happened? **9.30** The Royal Tea **10.00** The Best of the Talk **11.00** Andre Walker **1.00am** Martin Kelner

Radio 4 Extra
Digital only

8.00am Steptoe and Son **8.30** Flying the Flag **9.00** Act Your Age. With Henry Parker **9.30** Bleak Expectations **10.00** The One Before The Last **11.00** Shadows in Bronze **11.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **12.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **12.15pm** Young Victoria **12.30** Bridget Christie's Utopia **1.00** Steptoe and Son **1.30** Flying the Flag **2.00** Act Your Age **2.30** Bleak Expectations **3.00** The One Before The Last **4.00** Shadows in Bronze **4.30** Dr Finlay: The Further Adventures of a Black Bag **5.00** Hello World: How to Be Human in the Age of the Machine **5.15** Young Victoria **5.30** Bridget Christie's Utopia **6.00** Steptoe and Son **6.30** Flying the Flag **7.00** Act Your Age **7.30** Bleak Expectations **8.00** Victoria Wood: From Soup to Nuts **8.30** A Good Read **9.00** The Curious Cases of Rutherford & Fry **9.30** A Gathering Light **9.45** The Shadow Over Innsmouth **10.00** Mark Steel's in Town **10.30** DMs Are Open **11.00** Tim Key's Late Night Poetry Programme **11.15** Knocker **11.30** Les Kelly's Britain

BBC World Service
Digital only

9.00am The Newsroom **9.30** Science in Action **10.00** News **10.06** The Real Story **11.00** The Newsroom **11.30** Heart and Soul **12.00** News **12.06pm** The Fifth Floor **12.50** Witness History **1.00** The Newsroom **1.30** Science in Action **2.00** Newshour **3.00** News **3.06** HARDtalk **3.30** Business **4.00** BBC OS **6.00** News **6.06** The Fifth Floor **6.50** Witness History **7.00** The Newsroom **7.30** Sport Today **8.00** News **8.06** BBC OS Conversations **8.30** CrowdScience **9.00** Newshour **10.00** News **10.06** HARDtalk **10.30** Heart and Soul **11.00** Newsroom **11.20** Sports News **11.30** Business **12.00** News **12.06am** The Real Story **1.00** News **1.06** Business Matters **2.00** The Newsroom **2.30** Stumped **3.00** News **3.06** The Fifth Floor **3.50** Witness History **4.00** News **4.06** Real Story

6 Music
Digital only

7.30am Lauren Laverne **10.30** Nemone **1.00pm** Craig Charles **4.00** Steve Lamacq **7.00** The People's Party **9.00** Tom Ravenscroft **11.00** The Ravers Hour **12.00** 6 Indie Forever **1.00am** Emo Forever

Virgin Radio
Digital only

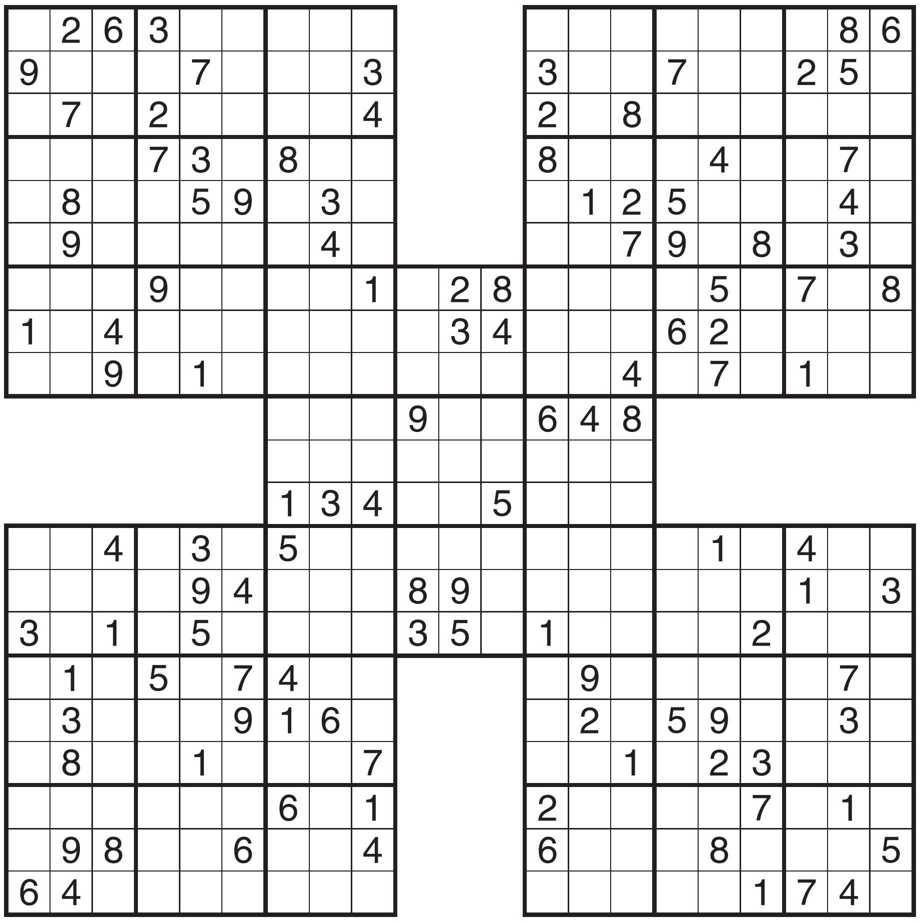
6.30am The Chris Evans Breakfast Show **10.00** Eddy Temple-Morris **1.00pm** Jayne Middlemiss **4.00** Ricky Wilson **7.00** Ben Jones **10.00** Rich Williams **1.00am** Olivia Jones

Classic FM
FM: 100-102 MHz

6.00am Breakfast **9.00** Alexander Armstrong **12.00** Anne-Marie Minhall **4.00pm** Margherita Taylor **7.00** Smooth Classics **10.00** Calm Classics **1.00am** Katie Breathwick **4.00** Sam Pittis

MindGames

Samurai Sudoku No 871 — Hard



© PUZZLER MEDIA

Solution to last week's Samurai Sudoku

8	5	4	6	7	9	3	1	2				6	7	2	5	1	3	4	8	9
2	6	1	8	3	5	7	9	4				4	9	3	8	6	7	2	5	1
3	7	9	1	2	4	8	5	6				8	1	5	2	9	4	6	7	3
1	4	7	2	5	3	6	8	9				9	5	7	3	4	2	8	1	6
9	2	6	7	1	8	4	3	5				3	2	8	6	7	1	9	4	5
5	8	3	4	9	6	2	7	1				1	4	6	9	5	8	7	3	2
6	3	2	9	8	1	5	4	7	9	6	3	2	8	1	7	3	6	5	9	4
4	1	8	5	6	7	9	2	3	7	1	8	5	6	4	1	8	9	3	2	7
7	9	5	3	4	2	1	6	8	5	2	4	7	3	9	4	2	5	1	6	8
						6	3	1	8	4	5	9	2	7						
						7	8	5	2	9	1	6	4	3						
						2	9	4	6	3	7	8	1	5						
5	1	4	2	8	9	3	7	6	1	8	9	4	5	2	6	8	9	3	1	7
6	7	2	5	3	4	8	1	9	4	5	2	3	7	6	1	2	4	9	8	5
3	8	9	1	7	6	4	5	2	3	7	6	1	9	8	7	3	5	2	6	4
7	2	6	8	5	3	1	9	4				9	6	1	2	4	7	5	3	8
8	9	5	4	1	7	2	6	3				5	8	3	9	6	1	7	4	2
1	4	3	9	6	2	5	8	7				7	2	4	3	5	8	6	9	1
4	5	7	3	9	8	6	2	1				2	4	9	8	7	3	1	5	6
9	3	1	6	2	5	7	4	8				6	1	5	4	9	2	8	7	3
2	6	8	7	4	1	9	3	5				8	3	7	5	1	6	4	2	9

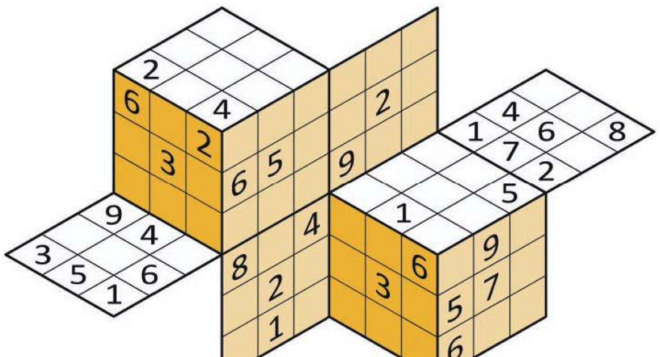
Our five-grid Sudoku will test your powers of logic and deduction.

Fill each grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Where the puzzles overlap, the rows and columns do not go beyond their usual length. The interlocking nature of the grid gives you more clues — and more complexity.

Remember — don't try to solve each Sudoku grid in turn; the puzzle has to be tackled as a whole.

Stuck? Call 0901 293 6263 to receive four clues for today's Samurai Sudoku. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Tredoku No 1785 — Medium



Tredoku is similar to Sudoku: the digits 1 to 9 must appear once only in each 3x3 box and in each line of nine consecutive cells. However, since the puzzle is three-dimensional, the lines may be straight or bent around angles. Follow each line's direction in search of clues.

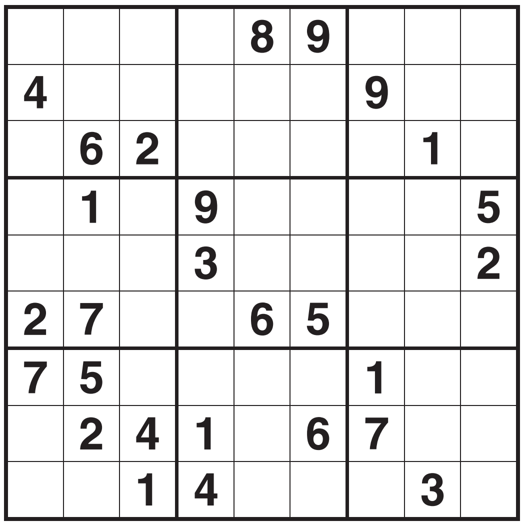
Sudoku/Killer © Puzzler Media

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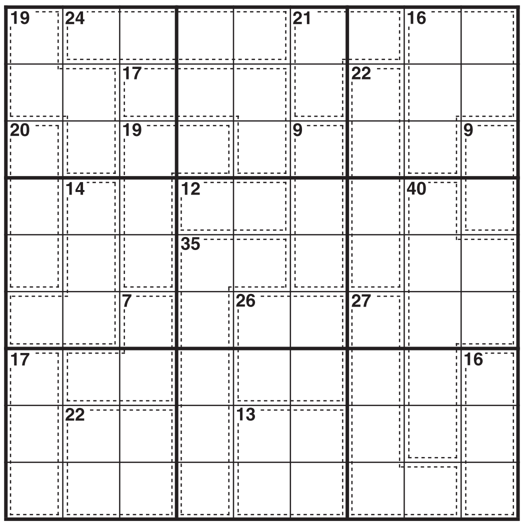
Sudoku No 14,040 — Fiendish



How to solve Sudoku. Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9

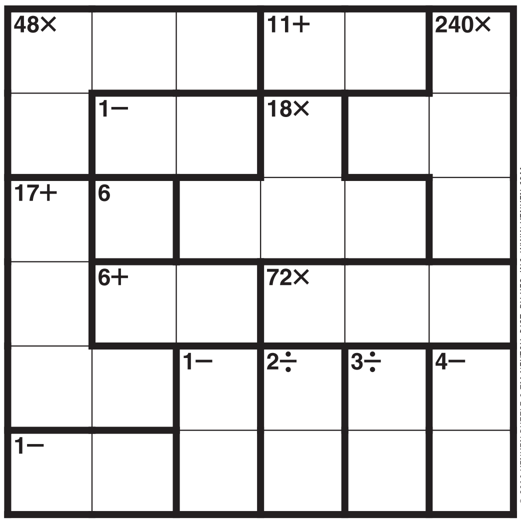
Stuck on KenKen, Killer or Sudoku?
Call 0901 293 6263 before midnight to receive four clues for any of today's puzzles. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge.
SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

Killer No 8874 — Deadly



Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Each set of cells joined by dotted lines must add up to the target number in its top-left corner. Within each set of cells joined by dotted lines, a digit cannot be repeated.
For solutions to KenKen, Sudoku & Killer see Times2 on Monday

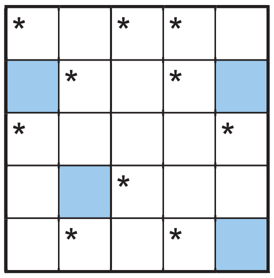
KenKen No 5892 — Medium



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All the digits 1 to 6 must appear in every row and column. In each thick-line "block", the target number in the top left-hand corner is calculated from the digits in all the cells in the block, using the operation indicated by the symbol.

Square Routes® No 218 — Medium
Ian Simpson & Richard Heald



CARIBBEAN
CELEBES
CELTIC
CERAM
CHILEAN
CHUKCHI
CORAL

Put one letter in each cell so that each word on the right can be spelt out by moving from cell to cell without using diagonal moves. You can use a cell more than once in a word (including backtracking into a cell you've just used), but double letters (eg, the LL in ALL) must use two adjacent cells. The words start in the coloured cells and the vowels are shown by asterisks.

Solution on Monday

Answers
Friday's solutions

KenKen No 5891

2	6	1	3	4	5
4	3	6	1	5	2
1	2	3	5	6	4
6	5	4	2	3	1
5	4	2	6	1	3
3	1	5	4	2	6

Sudoku No 14,037

6	1	5	9	3	8	2	4	7
2	8	3	7	5	4	1	9	6
7	4	9	6	2	1	5	3	8
9	5	8	1	4	2	7	6	3
3	2	6	5	7	9	8	1	4
1	7	4	3	8	6	9	5	2
5	3	1	2	6	7	4	8	9
8	9	7	4	1	3	6	2	5
4	6	2	8	9	5	3	7	1

Sudoku No 14,038

5	6	3	7	9	2	4	8	1
2	7	1	8	5	4	6	9	3
4	9	8	1	3	6	7	5	2
6	8	9	5	2	1	3	7	4
3	2	5	4	7	8	9	1	6
7	1	4	9	6	3	8	2	5
8	5	2	6	4	9	1	3	7
9	4	7	3	1	5	2	6	8
1	3	6	2	8	7	5	4	9

Sudoku No 14,039

2	4	7	3	5	8	1	6	9
8	1	5	9	4	6	7	2	3
6	3	9	7	1	2	5	8	4
4	5	6	2	8	1	3	9	7
9	7	2	6	3	4	8	1	5
3	8	1	5	7	9	2	4	6
1	6	3	4	2	5	9	7	8
5	9	8	1	6	7	4	3	2
7	2	4	8	9	3	6	5	1

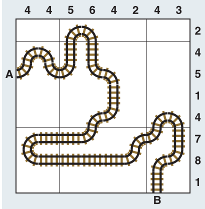
Killer No 8872

9	4	1	8	2	3	7	5	6
6	3	2	5	4	7	1	9	8
8	7	5	9	1	6	4	2	3
2	6	9	3	5	4	8	7	1
3	1	7	6	8	2	5	4	9
5	8	4	7	9	1	3	6	2
4	2	6	1	3	5	9	8	7
7	9	3	4	6	8	2	1	5
1	5	8	2	7	9	6	3	4

Killer No 8873

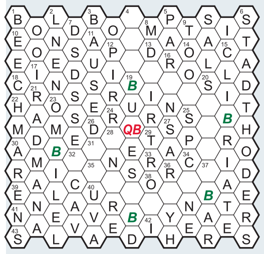
1	7	5	2	8	4	6	9	3
3	4	6	5	1	9	7	2	8
8	2	9	3	6	7	4	1	5
2	9	1	7	4	3	8	5	6
6	3	4	8	5	1	2	7	9
7	5	8	9	2	6	3	4	1
5	6	3	1	7	2	9	8	4
9	8	7	4	3	5	1	6	2
4	1	2	6	9	8	5	3	7

Train Tracks No 1936



Codeword No 4899

O	U	T	S	E	T		R	O	C	O	C	O
	N		T		W		I		O		O	
E	Q	U	A	T	I	O	N		R	I	L	L
	U		R		T		S		G		L	
Z	E	S	T		C	H	E	M	I	C	A	L
	S		L		H						B	
S	T	E	E	L	Y		P	R	O	T	O	N
	I						A		U		R	
F	O	O	T	W	E	A	R		T	O	A	D
	N		O		S		V		R		T	
J	I	N	X		S	C	E	N	A	R	I	O
	N		I		A		N		N		V	
A	G	E	N	C	Y		U	P	K	E	E	P



The Listener 4760 Queen by Rebel
Letters omitted from across answers spelt "way in top mid, bees deflecting". Starting downward from cell 4 and turning when hitting a B traced "erase path to royal cell". The omitted down letters spelt "title bee; core occupiers", leading to the initials of "queen bee" in the central cell. More details at listenercrossword.com.
The winners are Trevitt Steggles of London N20; Gordon Denham of Brighouse, West Yorkshire; Dafydd Price Jones of Ruthin, Sir Ddinbych.

Solve Cryptic Quintagram every weekday online
Go to thetimes.co.uk

Cryptic Quintagram®

Solve all five cryptic clues using each letter underneath once only

1 Defender returned (4)

_ _ _ _

2 River enveloped by odour: something sharp (5)

_ _ _ _ _

3 Long time before November (5)

_ _ _ _ _

4 Animal with go destroyed plant (8)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

5 Fancy title with books in test (10)

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

A	A	A	A	A	A	B	C
E	E	G	G	I	K	L	L
M	M	N	N	N	N	N	O
O	O	P	R	R	R	T	Y

Answers below

Word Watch David Parfitt

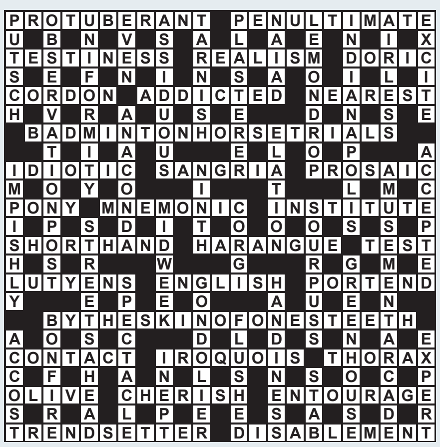
Clipshears
a. An earwig
b. A topiary tool
c. A sharp rebuke

Spleuchan
a. A tobacco pouch
b. A folklore sprite
c. To cough violently

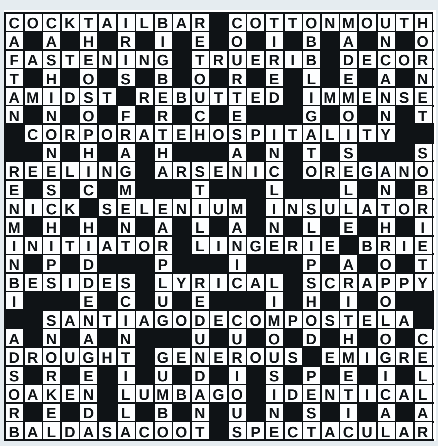
Ubicity
a. Whereabouts
b. Lewdness
c. Supremacy

Aefauld
a. A sheep pen
b. Vile, wicked
c. Single, sole

Answers below

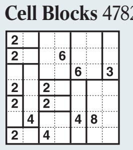


Solution to Cryptic Jumbo 1611
The winner is Lorraine Martin of Sheffield

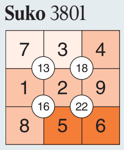


Solution to times2 Jumbo 1611
The winner is Matthew Holyoak of London SW6

Cell Blocks 4782



Suko 3801



Mindset 1. Themes are UK winners of the Eurovision Song Contest: {BEACH, COAST, STRAND} — sandy shores (Sandie Shaw, 1967); {DISH, PEACH, SMASHER) — synonyms of Lulu (1969); {FELLOWSHIP, FRATERNITY, LODGE} — each can be a Brotherhood of Man (1976); {CHAMPAGNE, ORANGE JUICE} — ingredients of Bucks Fizz (1981); {KNAVE, THAWED, TSARINA} — anagram of Katrina and the Waves (1997). **2.** 1/3. There are 90 possible ways the votes could have been cast. For each of the 10 possible scores by Ireland, the number of ways Sweden could be ahead are (7+6+5+4+3+2+2+1+0+0) = 30. **3.** BAYONET VERSION (YENOBSERVATION); RISING TWELVE (STERLINGVIEW); SHALLOT GRID (DOLLARSIGHT).

Word Watch: Clipshears (a) An earwig (*Collins*). **Spleuchan** (a) A tobacco pouch (*Chambers*). **Ubicity** (a) Whereabouts (*OED*). **Aefauld** (c) Single, sole (*Collins*).

Polygon keno, kern, knot, knout, krone, nerk, nork, nuke, rusk, snoek, soke, souk, stoke, stoker, stokes, stonk, stonker, stork, stroke, **sunstroke**, toke, token, toker, torsk, trek, trunk, tusk, tusker.

Scrabble GREATEN (I2a); GRANTEE, REAGENT; M*I*SINFER (E1a), FARMINGS (C3a), FRAMINGS (C2a); MIN*I*BARS (A8a).

Literary quiz
1 *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning.*
2 *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings.* 3 *I, Robot.* 4 *I Am Legend.*

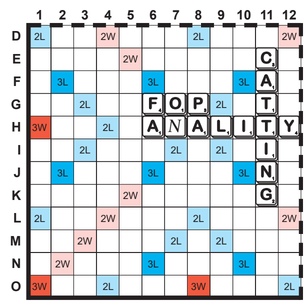
Cryptic Quintagram 1 Back **2** Prong **3** Yearn **4** Magnolia **5** Ornamental.

Scrabble® Paul Gallen

A final score of 516 points would comfortably win the vast majority of Scrabble games. Unfortunately for the former US national champion Matthew Tunnicliffe, that points total was insufficient to defeat his opponent, Rob Robinsky, in a fantastic game at the Champions Cup in New York earlier this month.

The defeat was particularly galling for Tunnicliffe as he lost despite making two spectacular moves. The board on which he made his first play is recreated in the extract below, and he held the following rack.

A E E G N R T



There are two seven-letter words that would have registered 74 points. NEGATER is one of them — what is the other?

As a separate challenge, can you find the two further anagrams of AEEGNRT?

Tunnicliffe looked beyond the seven-letter opportunities and found the superb PARENTAGE (G8d) for 89 points. Unfortunately for him, this provided a floating N for his opponent to play COVERING (K2a) for 78 points in response, which was later followed by another bonus word of AMIDASE (C4d) for Robinsky.

Tunnicliffe's second standout move took place when he trailed 421-267, facing the main board below with the following rack.

F I M N R S ?

Can you find the given target scores, declaring the blank as the following letters?

E 74 points (an uncommon but logically formed verb)

G 76 points (an uncommon plural of a common word)

G 78 points (as above)

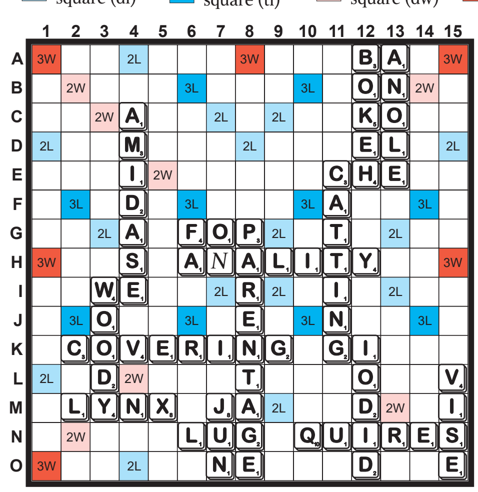
Finally, can you find Tunnicliffe's choice, which scored 99 points, declaring the blank as I?

Tunnicliffe subsequently played FEZ (D10d) for 75 points to threaten a famous comeback, but he ran out of scoring power in the endgame and lost by six points.

Definitions
AMIDASE an enzyme
NEGATER one who negates, also NEGATOR

Collins Official Scrabble Words is the word authority used.
Word positions use the grid reference plus (a)cross or (d)own.

2L double letter square (dl) 3L triple letter square (tl) 2W double word square (dw) 3W triple word square (tw)



Letter values
1 point: A E I O U L N R S T
2 points: D G
3 points: B C M P
4 points: F H V W Y
K = 5
J X = 8
Q Z = 10

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Polygon Roger Phillips



Using the given letters no more than once, make as many words as possible of four or more letters, always including the central letter. Capitalised words, plurals, conjugated verbs (past tense etc), adverbs ending in LY, comparatives and superlatives are disallowed.
How you rate: 17 words average; 23, good; 30, very good; 38, excellent.

Answers to Friday's Polygon are to the left. Today's answers are printed in MindGames on Monday

Cell Blocks 4783



Divide the grid into square or rectangular blocks, each containing one digit only. Every block must contain the number of cells indicated by the digit inside it.
Yesterday's solution, left

Chess David Howell

Past, Present, and Future

The recent Tepe Sigemen tournament in Sweden followed a modern recipe by gathering a mixture of young talents and battle-hardened veterans. This trend celebrates legends of chess while giving opportunities to the next generation to learn from their predecessors.

Experience eventually triumphed over youth in Malmö as 46-year-old Peter Svidler clinched first prize. He was given a big helping hand in the final round, however, by a 54-year-old colleague. Former world championship challenger Boris Gelfand had been having a torrid tournament, languishing in last place, but he taught 14-year-old Abhimanyu Mishra a valuable endgame lesson by grinding out a win after 125 moves. Until that point Mishra — the world's youngest ever grandmaster —had been undefeated and shared the lead with Svidler.

An earlier clash between Svidler and Gelfand was as dramatic as it was instructive.

White: Boris Gelfand
Black: Peter Svidler
Tepe Sigemen Tournament, Malmö 2023
King's Indian Defence

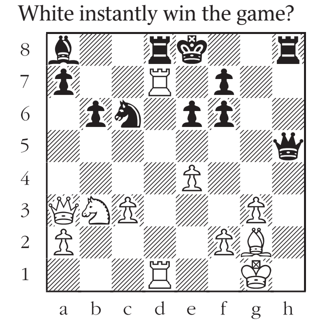
1 Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 d6 Eight-time Russian champion Svidler is the world's leading Grünfeld Defence specialist, so it is a surprise to see him push his d-pawn only one square at such an early stage. **3 d4 g6 4 Nc3 Bf5** A rare and provocative idea. **5 Qb3** Every move has its consequences. The undefended b7-pawn is immediately attacked. **5...Qc8 6 h3 c6 7 g4** White's philosophy now and over the next moves can be summed up in a single word: expansion. **7...Be6 8 e4 Bg7 9 Ng5 c5 10 Nxe6** Top players tend to have a bias towards bishops over knights. We will see an example of this bishop versus knight theme later in the game. Pushing further forward with 10 d5 Bd7 11 f4 would have been consistent and strong. The white pawns threaten to steamroller the congested enemy forces. **10...fxe6 11 d5 0-0 12 Be3 Nfd7 13 f4 Bd4** A logical attempt to avoid a traffic jam in the black camp by planting a piece in the white half. **14 Nb5 e5 15 f5 a6 16 Nxd4** A second black bishop leaves the board for a white knight. **16...exd4 17 Bf4 Nf6 18 Qf3** The knights dearly crave outposts. With this in mind, investing tempi with 18 e5! dxe5 19 Bxe5 Nbd7 20 Bf4 would favour White. More lines are opened for the bishops while the key e5-square is taken out of the knights' grasp. **18...Nbd7 19 Bd3 b5** Black's only means of counterplay. **20 b3 Rb8 21 0-0 Ne5** This outpost acts as a launchpad for the knights. **22 Qg3** 22 Bxe5 is a committal and double-edged decision, as White would rather keep the dark-squared bishop. **22...bxc4 23 bxc4** Computers prefer 23 Bxc4 when 23...Nxe4 can be met by 24 Qg2. For humans, though, this is an impossible variation to evaluate. **23...Nfd7 24 Bg5 Rf7 25 fxg6 hxg6 26 Rxf7 Kxf7** White has already gone astray, and 26...Nxf7! would have been a chance to seize the initiative. 27 Bxe7 Qc7 28 Rf1 Nde5 29 Bf6 Qa5 is a picturesque line. The black pieces will invade via the queenside while White is left with a rotten piece on d3. **27 Rf1+ Ke8?**



Black's king has chosen the wrong direction. Timing is everything, and White now misses the moment. **28 Bc2?** 28 Bxe7! would have been timely. There is also no risk involved, as 28...Kxe7 29 Qh4+ Ke8 30 Qh8+ gives a draw by perpetual check. The cunning 30 Bc2! is even stronger, when it turns out that White's attack is powerful. **28...Kd8!** Running to safety. **29 Bxe7+ Kc7** Not 29...Kxe7? 30 Qh4+ Ke8 31 Ba4. **30 Ba4 Qe8 31 Bf6 Rb4 32 Bxe5?** The game is decided on this vital square. The other bishop should have been exchanged: 32 Bxd7 holds the dynamic balance. **32...Qxe5 33 Qa3** 33 Qxe5 Nxe5 is a beautiful endgame for Black: the knight is clearly superior to the bishop. **33...d3!** This must have been overlooked. **34 Bxd7** 34 Qxd3 Rxa4. **34...Rb2 35 Qa5+ Kxd7 White resigns** The checks disappear after 36 Rf7+ Ke8 or 36 Qa4+ Ke7. It is the white king that will perish.

Winning Move

White to play. Esipenko-Salomon, Moscow 2018. How can White instantly win the game?



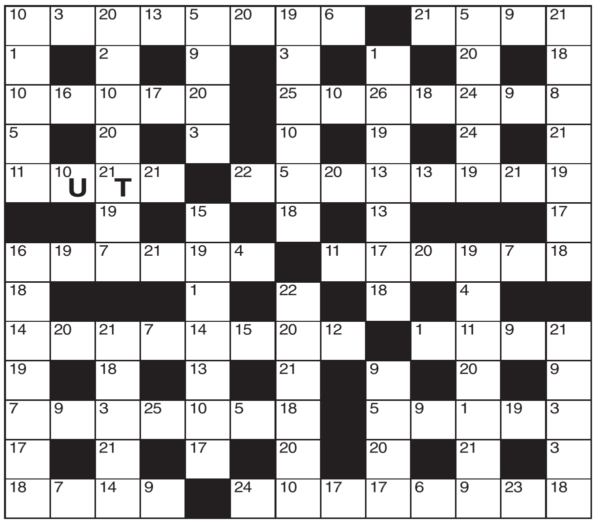
The first correct entry drawn on Thursday will receive a copy of *Collins English Dictionary and Thesaurus*. The two runners-up will receive a book prize. Answers on a postcard to: The Times Winning Move, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ, or email to: winningmove@thetimes.co.uk. Open to 18+, UK and ROI residents only. The answer will be published next Saturday.

Solution to last week's puzzle: **1 Rxd4!** wins: **1...Rxd4 2 Rxd4 Rxd4 3 Nd5!** (3 Bd5 also works). The h-pawn will soon promote. The winner is Tracey Cann of Sidmouth, Devon.

MindGames

The Times Crossword, Latin Crossword, Saturday Quiz and Suko are in the back of the main paper

Codeword No 4900



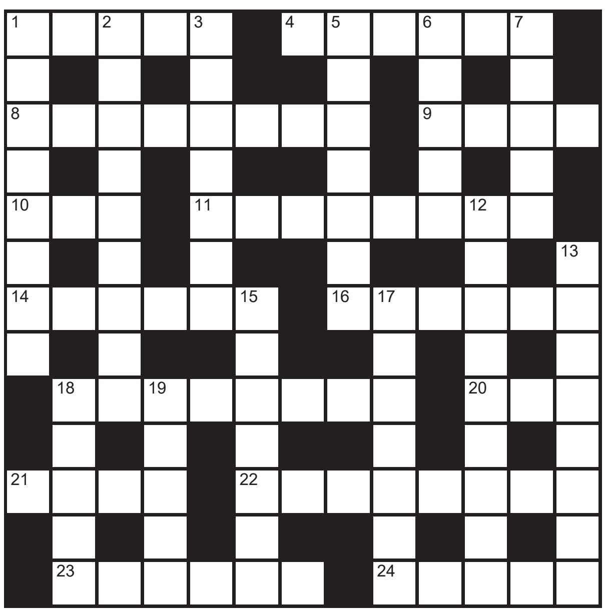


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Every letter in this crossword-style grid has been substituted for a number from 1 to 26. Each letter of the alphabet appears at least once. Use the letters already provided to work out further letters. Enter letters in the main grid and the smaller reference grid. Proper nouns are excluded. *Yesterday's solution on page 52*

Stuck on Codeword? To receive four random clues call 0901 293 6262 or text TIMECODE to 64343. Calls cost £1 plus your telephone company's network access charge. Texts cost £1 plus your standard network charge. For the full solution call 0905 757 0142. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri, 9am-5.30pm).

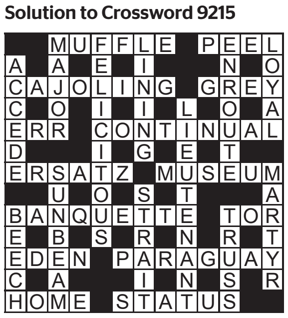
times2 Crossword No 9216



Across
1 Let (5)
4 Range of mountains with a jagged outline (6)
8 Metal bars acting as a fence or boundary (8)
9 Cot (4)
10 Cereal grass that may be used to make whiskey (3)
11 Pour out or empty (contents) (8)
14 Topical humour (6)
16 Decorative bunch of threads (6)
18 Upper costal bones (4,4)
20 Burnt deposit (3)
21 Dextrous, skilful (4)
22 Imposing of levies (8)
23 On three occasions (6)
24 Sides, rims (5)

Down
1 Remove obvious flaws from (an image) (8)
2 East Midlands city (9)
3 More peculiar (7)
5 Shrewd observation (7)
6 Happen again (5)
7 Actor's remark to the audience (5)
12 Carrying in the womb (9)
13 Experienced campaigners (3,5)
15 Haphazard (7)
17 Soothe, ally (7)
18 Pleasant gift or surprise (5)
19 Say, articulate (5)

Solution to Crossword 9215



Need help with today's puzzle? Call 0905 757 0143 to check the answers. Calls cost £1 per minute plus your telephone company's network access charge. SP: Spoke, 0333 202 3390 (Mon-Fri 9am-5.30pm).

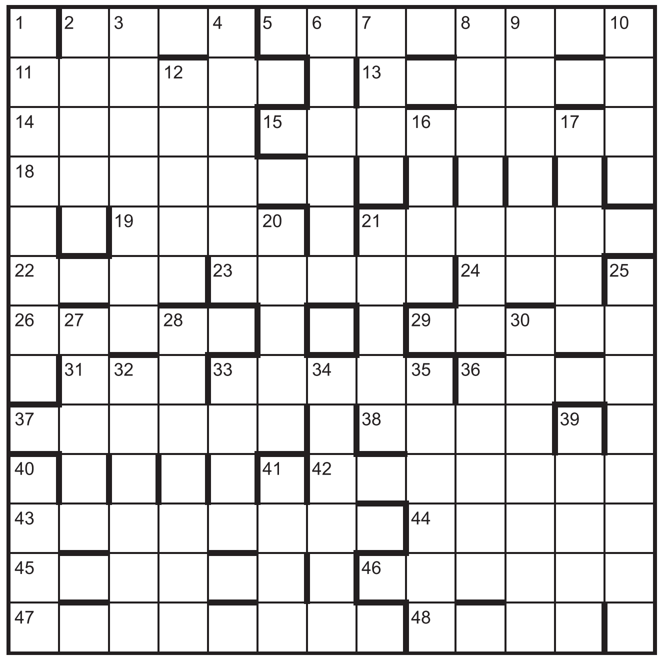
The Listener Crossword No 4763 **Pressure Points** by Mr Snaky

Senders of the first three correct entries drawn will receive *Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* or may choose from a selection of other books (see below). Send your entry with contact details completed to: Listener Crossword 4763, 63 Green Lane, St Albans, Hertfordshire AL3 6HE, to arrive by May 25.

Listener 4760 solution on page 52

Prize options and more at listenercrossword.com

More information about Chambers books can be found at chambers.co.uk



Name.......................................

Address.......................................

Postcode .... **Phone/email**........................

Ten clues have a misprint in the definition; the corrections hint at the subject. Enter four symmetrically placed answers as anagrams, complete the central cell and highlight three of the subject's concepts (20 cells in total). In eight cells, choose which of the two letters from clashing answers to enter, making real words. Six of these letters reveal the subject; draw a thematic shape through them and also join them with six straight lines in an order to be determined, to illustrate the central concept, with the clashes at their intersections showing the third concept's topic. *The Chambers Dictionary* (2016) is the primary reference; 28 and 45 are in the *Oxford Dictionary of English*; one answer is an abbreviation.

Across
2 Past sad, vacantly suffering after shock (4)
5 Persistently annoying bears hang loose (8)
11 Did help dividing wine (6)
13 It's in blood sample mostly treated before (6)
14 Concepts I'd recognise from the east (5)
15 I don a tie, knotted like a ribbon (8)
18 Lawrence perhaps misguided as a Brit? (7)
19 Finally rush after small dog that smells no more! (4)
21 Jobs, eg, doubling core pack at sea (6)
22 Rig out special flight in the country (4)
23 Old sewer starts to emit effluent, leaking in Tyneside region (5)
24 Some Berliners in a Tyrolese town (3)
26 Gather could be nearly reduced (5)
29 Take in reconstituted coal smoke (5)
31 "Temse" could be misspelt, yes (3)
33 Stares in parts when nipper returns (5)
36 Hearts in embryo likewise are forming (4)
37 Brest's sons, not special at all, are this (6)
38 Dug free entertainment, that's no right (4)
42 Graduation, possibly a teacher's task (7)
43 Nice and racy frolicking of hedonistic philosophy (8)
44 Base English lament north of the border (5)
45 Change in pace with halting breath in LA (6)
46 Swapping left for right, fatal boob (6)
47 Most decrying sin make amends with it (8)
48 What's changed at advent of extremism initially in Holland? (4)

Down
1 The whole international big uprising (8)
2 Chaplain digs scripture (5)
3 African swimmer settled back before a meal (flipping Japanese fish) (7)
4 Sketch of sun in decline? (6)
6 Turner captures ordinary gate (6)
7 Possibly renting Lincoln dwelling, at first (4)
8 Product used to fix locks, no good containing earth worm (7)
9 Compound restructured a little in Iran (6)
10 Old spear or short pike with plug inserted (4)
12 Make faultless start, not quite grand (5)
16 Revolutionary school for me, say (4)
17 Precision alloy within refereeing tech (5)
20 Bird with long legs, the lady's working (5)
21 Part of tribe around lake was dormant (5)
25 Lengths of text without poor grades (8)
27 Listener 50 and 150 in the remote past (5)
28 Rot about quaint sport message sent on (7)
30 Stir tea vigorously for entertainer (7)
32 Lungs in fact punctured by a US nurse (6)
33 Puppet to appear theatrically (4)
34 Money for victor in correct surrender (6)
35 Boy concealing sign of doubt holily? (6)
36 Stirling's mossy, maybe poorly raked (5)
39 Name amateur in a new league record (5)
40 Scottish guy's returning fleece (4)
41 Northern holiday retreat with other king (4)

Mindset by 700

1. Divide into threes:
BEACH CHAMPAGNE COAST DISH FELLOWSHIP FRATERNITY JUICE KNAVE LODGE ORANGE PEACH SMASHER STRAND THAWED TSARINA

2. Imagine that it's the final jury vote at Eurovision with Ireland two points ahead of Sweden. The points from the last country to vote (which is neither Ireland nor Sweden) are still 1-8, 10 and 12, but a glitch has assigned them randomly! **Ireland and Sweden both get points, but what is the chance that Sweden are ahead of Ireland after this?**

3. Want an alternative to EUROVISION? **Pair and anagram:**
BAYONET GRID RISING SHALLOT TWELVE VERSION

Answers on page 53

Literary Quiz
The Times Literary Desk

Narcissism
Each of these books has "I" in the title. Name them
1. Laurie Lee's 1969 follow-up to *Cider With Rosie*
2. Another 1969 memoir, this one by Maya Angelou
3. Isaac Asimov's 1950 sci-fi collection
4. Richard Matheson's 1954 tale of post-apocalyptic horror, turned into a 2007 film starring Will Smith

Answers on page 53

Bridge Andrew Robson

South at Table Two truly snatched victory from the jaws of defeat on today's deal from the Crockfords Cup.

Dealer South N-S Vul

North: ♠ J 6 ♥ - ♦ J 8 5 4 3 ♣ A Q 9 8 7 3
West: ♠ Q 10 8 7 4 3 2 ♥ 8 ♦ K 10 2 ♣ J 5
East: ♠ A K 9 5 ♥ Q J 9 3 ♦ A Q 9 6 ♣ 6
South: ♠ - ♥ A K 10 7 6 5 4 2 ♦ 7 ♣ K 10 4 2

Table One

S	W	N	E
4♥(1)	4♠(2)	Pass	4NT(3)
Pass	5♣(4)	Pass(5)	5♠(6)
end			

(1) Stronger than a classic 4♥ opener but it's a good tactical bid to make.
(2) Would normally have a far stronger hand as, "You don't pre-empt over a pre-empt". But sitting there supinely doesn't feel right. Oddly, if South opened 3♥, you should almost certainly pass, planning to bid next time (say if North raises to 4♥ and the bidding comes back to you); but over a 4♥ opener, it's probably now or never.
(3) Roman Key Card Blackwood.
(4) Zero (or three) of "five aces" (including ♠K).
(5) North misses a big chance here — to double 5♣ and show where he lives. South would love that.
(6) Two missing aces.

Heartless, North cashed the ace of clubs v West's 5♠, switching at trick two to a diamond. Declarer ran the lead to his ten and could draw trumps and cash diamonds, shedding his heart. Only a low club lead enables East to enjoy a heart. Twelve tricks and Five Spades made plus one. E-W +680.

Table Two

S	W	N	E
1♥	2♠(1)	Dbl(2)	4♠
6♥(3)	Pass	Pass	Dbl(4)
7♣(5)	Pass	Pass	Dbl
end			

(1) Weak jump overcall — 3♠ feels a bit rich given the broken suit and unfavourable vulnerability.
(2) Negative ie take-out, mainly for the minors.
(3) Not an unreasonable punt — hey, it may even be a sacrifice against a big spade contract.
(4) As who would not, frankly.
(5) Brilliant and courageous. South realises East has doubled on a powerful heart holding so gambles on his partner having good clubs. How right he was.

West looked no further than a spade lead. Declarer ruffed and ruffed a heart. He then cashed the ace of clubs and crossed to the king, drawing trumps. He cashed the ace-king of hearts, throwing diamonds from dummy (unpeterbed to observe the four-one split) and ruffed a heart. All that remained was to ruff dummy's remaining spade and cash the long hearts. Away went all of dummy's diamonds, enabling declarer to ruff his diamond and claim his grand slam. N-S +1,630.

Okay, I'll come clean. The above is what my team *should* have done. In fact, at Table One our E-W pair sold out to the 4♥ opener: -420. At Table Two, our N-S pair sat the double of 6♥: -300. Disaster.

andrew.robson@thetimes.co.uk

For more crosswords and your favourite puzzles go to thetimes.co.uk

Jumbo crossword No 1615

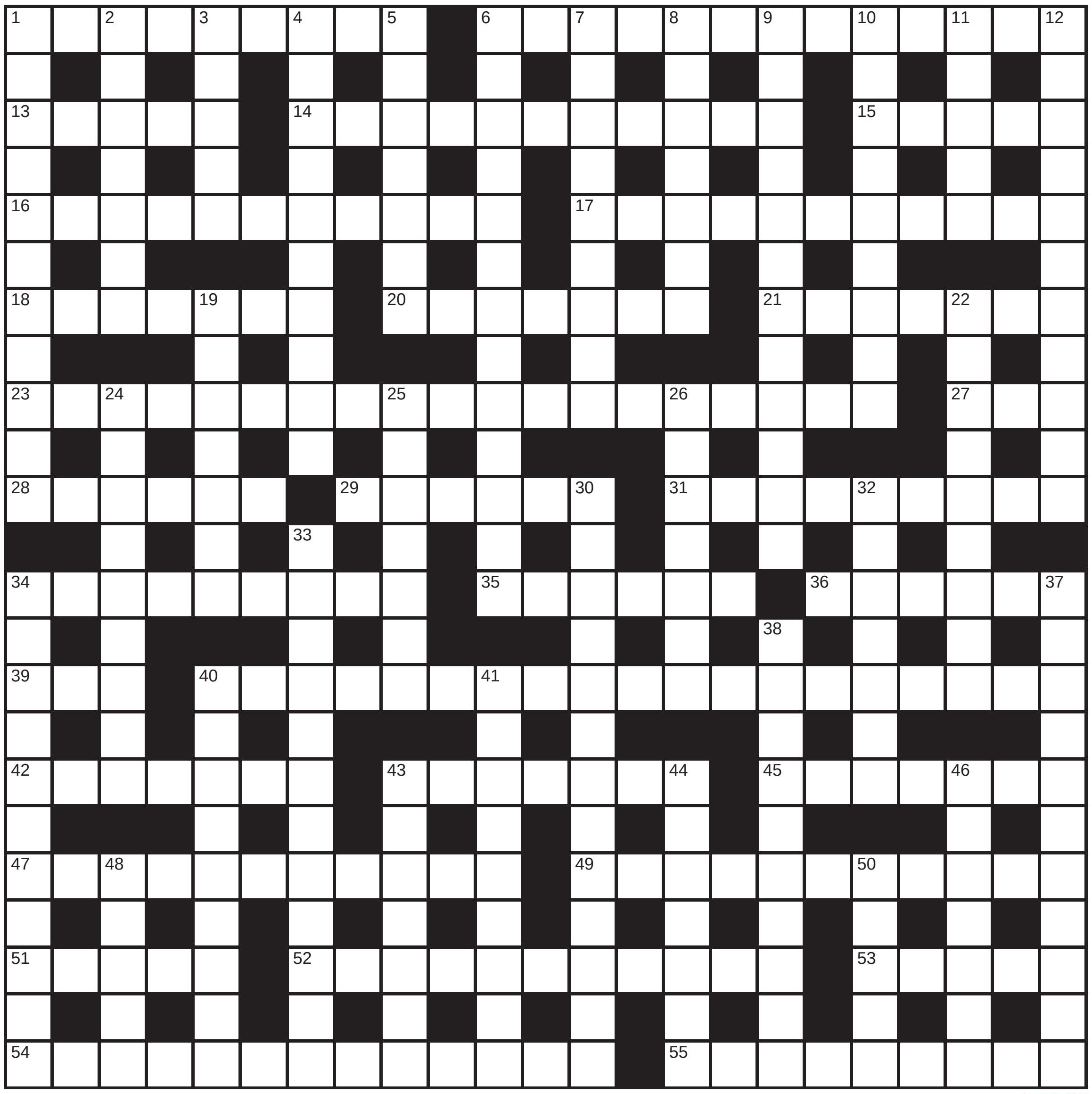
Cryptic clues

Across

1 Chemical process? Whip article away from critical study (9)
6 MD's style? With energy, MD needs brain activated to work (7,6)
13 Simplistic North America likely to shock, ousting leader (5)
14 Recalled musical success with theatre adopting right authority (11)
15 Urban greenery needing a warm coat (5)
16 Paid me back: old character's considered good about that (11)
17 Strength in the lashes when fluttering (11)
18 Secretary receiving an expert cure (7)
20 Item of poetry allowed after masterstroke (7)
21 Military leader to be heading for Rome in a month (7)
23 Ardennes? A great visit — brought about by this? (5,1,6,7)
27 Minute almost needed to get ready (3)
28 Holy man blocking temptation shows distinction (6)
29 Legal statement is flexible, one having been moved back (6)
31 Flag put back before lecture is to disappear (9)
34 Animal secretion increasingly seen to rotate in ring (9)
35 Leg mostly surrounded by other legs is shining (6)
36 Stop recalling passion in case (6)
39 Some further airtime for African music (3)
40 Indication of closure, as pilfering female pinching article confesses (4,3,3,4,5)
42 Mysterious shout still perhaps observed around tango (7)
43 Brief comment about Minister held back team (7)
45 Herb ungrateful daughter planted in rings (7)
47 Trampled turf not gone, still retrievable (11)
49 Not something you can see being developed by rival outlet (11)
51 A lot of shadows behind one house in the North (5)
52 Lavender bed? It may be excessively flowery (6,5)
53 Thai people live in Bangkok and Yangon ultimately (5)
54 American novel's representation of sheltered year (3,10)
55 Several years without unpleasantness, not seeing one rotting (9)

Down

1 Shifted intercept on a line moving to the middle (11)
2 The writer is restricted by lacking vitamin (7)
3 Extra bedtime story for a particular group? (3-2)
4 Transport boss to drink, thus requiring impounding of vehicle (10)
5 One doubts church can take part, as originally presented externally (7)
6 Terrifying family appearing with daughter in winter sport (13)
7 Had vigil arranged to enshrine end of supreme impresario (9)
8 Copying it involves chap securing it (7)
9 Judge ousting Liberal in vote: constituency's source of sudden exit (8,4)
10 Person with job application having nothing in support (9)
11 Take care of note, money-bag not opening (5)
12 Development of US careers brought about a new peace of mind (11)
19 Lively horse crossing North Mexican river (3,4)
22 Club rugby player receiving cheers making squad (9)
24 Australian effrontery, dismissing me in hard times (9)
25 Excellent blokes probing officer's complaint (7)
26 Most of story about Channel Island is describing rising heat (7)
30 Mural in convent: reworked that less nearer the ceiling (3,4,6)
32 What superintendent should do, no longer bothered by religious office (7)
33 Be avoiding shift to wheat-farming perhaps and fail (4,1,7)
34 Air-stunt chap leaving rear of zeppelin, possibly? (11)
37 Misbehaving is unnoticed? Stop (11)
38 Mostly stupid old man, mostly stupid in an individual way (10)
40 Swallowed river in entire oasis (5-4)
41 English agree to retain English naval force for ever (9)
43 Is French or Italian article seen in luxury resort? (7)
44 Marked down as absent from Eastern delta (7)
46 Feel bad, with bird losing foremost flying aid (7)
48 River's ending in lake? Not so (5)
50 Avoided abandoning Mum in a distressed state (5)



Name...

Address...

...

...

... Postcode...

Phone number...

Prizes



The prize for each of the first correct solutions to the Cryptic and times2 Jumbo clues to be opened will be a collection of Times reference books — including *The Times Universal Atlas of the World, Collins English Dictionary & Thesaurus,* and *Bradford's Crossword Solver's Dictionary* published by HarperCollins. Entries should be marked "Cryptic" or "times2" and sent to: The Times Jumbo Crossword 1615, PO Box 2164, Colchester, Essex CO2 8LJ; or emailed to: jumbo@thetimes.co.uk, with "Cryptic 1615" or "times2 1615" in the subject line, to arrive by May 25. Open to 18+, UK & ROI residents only. The winners and the solutions will be published on May 27.

times2 clues

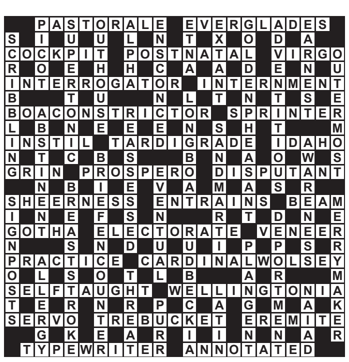
Across

1 Item of headgear (6,3)
6 Camaraderie, togetherness (13)
13 Happen again (5)
14 Of little consequence (11)
15 Line of mountains (5)
16 And those following (*Latin*) (2,9)
17 Exaggerated dramatic behaviour (11)
18 Lilac; mock orange (7)
20 Handkerchief worn around head or neck (7)
21 Person within an organisation (7)
23 Activities aiding recuperation (12,7)
27 Weep noisily (3)
28 Parallel of latitude named for Cancer or Capricorn (6)
29 Golf club; motorist (6)
31 Tasty (9)
34 Violent weather (9)
35 Character; communication (6)
36 Comfort, consolation (6)
39 Very young child (3)
40 Make sure one's affairs are arranged properly (3,4,5,2,5)
42 Attachment to a winter cap (7)
43 Uncomfortably crowded (7)
45 Nonsense (7)
47 Concerned with treating mental illness (11)
49 Refinement and good education (11)
51 Straight edge (5)
52 Make (someone) appear guilty (11)
53 Last Greek letter (5)
54 Temporary recovery after a market fall in value (4-3,6)
55 Take apart (9)

Down

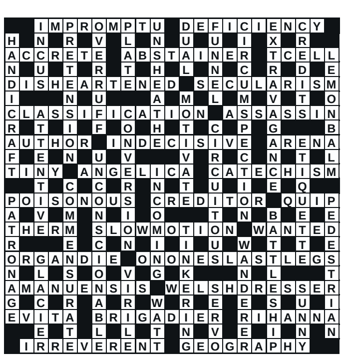
1 Conflict in which an aggressor has a decisive advantage (6,5)
2 Tooth (7)
3 Outdoor meal (3-1-1)
4 Social gathering over more than one day (5,5)
5 Type of washing machine (4-3)
6 Comic book superhero (7,6)
7 Military parade (5,4)*
8 Now-vanished large lake of Central Asia (4,3)
9 Never-ending (12)
10 Shyly, timidly (9)
11 Capital of Vietnam (5)
12 Delightful, gratifying (11)
19 Babies' protectors (7)
22 Vehicle's instrument panel (9)
24 Eg, cathedral singer (9)
25 Rower (7)
26 Fast train (7)
30 Looking backwards (13)
32 Couple (7)
33 Keyboard player (12)
34 Quick to anger (3-8)
37 Pottery made of fired clay (11)
38 Promptitude (10)
40 Common type of acid (9)
41 Supporting frame (9)
43 Bitter orange liqueur (7)
44 Slow or stupid person (7)
46 Old word for food (7)
48 Crimean city (5)
50 Pleasant smell (5)

May Day bank holiday Cryptic Jumbo No 1612



The winner is Roger Thompson of Woking, Surrey

May Day bank holiday times2 Jumbo No 1612



The winner is Pauline Saunders of Worcester

Train Tracks will return on May 22


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SAT 17 JUNE
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